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[J. HOLMES, TOOK'S COURT.]

## REVIEWS

*Reise in Ungarn, im Jahre 1831, &c. &c.—[Travels in Hungary, in the Year 1831. &c. &c.]* By S. von Ludvigh. Pesth: Eggenberger; London, Richter.

We like travels, especially by travellers not English, who, from their manners and habits, see most things in a different light from ourselves. Above all, we like travels by Germans, who see all things under the sun in a light strongly coloured or divided by their several prisms, national and individual. But there are limits beyond which all qualities, even the most pleasing or estimable, change their nature; and we must confess that S. von Ludvigh's *subjectivity*, as the Germans call this peculiar mode of seeing and describing, somewhat passes those limits. He travels about Hungary, looking at every place, at every scene, almost exclusively in its relation to himself. Here he went to school, there he was jilted, here he fell sick, &c. &c. &c. We really began to despair of finding in his pages anything to repay the trouble of reading them; but Hungary is a country so little known, that even the most *subjective*, or self-engrossed tourist, especially as there were spots with which he had no private associations, could not fail to afford us some local information; and what we have found we hasten to impart to our readers. The first descriptive extract that we meet with, relates to one of the castles of the Esterházy family, and records a fact which we should have taken for a jest, had the book borne any marks of a jocular spirit in its author, who professes to be a love-lorn invalid.

From Raab we drove through the Raabau (valley of the Raab) to Pankote, where we slept in the house of our peasant driver. The same carriage conveyed us in the morning to Esterházy. Here we alighted in the avenue in front of the princely castle, to view the remains of the splendours, once domiciliated there, of the princes of Esterházy. We stumbled upon four Viennese, who were making a little excursion into Hungary; and with them we visited the apartments of the castle. One of these contains a beautiful collection of vessels of Chinese porcelain. The saloon is large, and remarkable for its admirable *al fresco* paintings. Most of the rooms are painted in the Chinese taste, some upon grounds of gold. We here saw a representation of that wonderful animal which, in the last year of the last century (1799!) was caught in the neighbouring Neusiedler lake. It had a regular human form; but was covered with scales, and provided with fins. Under careful superintendence, this merman gradually became accustomed to human intercourse, and suffered himself to be employed in the kitchen as a scullion. He never would take any nourishment except raw fish and tonds, and never uttered any sound. At length, when it was no longer feared that he would attempt to abscond, he was allowed his full liberty, and, not feeling himself at home on dry ground, and being moreover, it is not unlikely, often treated with a cudgelling, he one day disappeared in the

lake. No natural history affords us any information concerning such a species of animal, and the apparition of this merman was and remains an inexplicable riddle. The great Park is neglected. We walked awhile under the beautiful alleys of chestnut trees, and discussed the economical system of many of our magnates, who waste their time abroad, where they are little esteemed or even noticed; whereas, did they return home after dedicating a few years to foreign travel, they would be generally honoured, and might very much contribute to promoting the welfare of their father-land, and to its real national greatness.

The following gives, we think, a rather agreeable idea of the localities of Buda, the common European appellation of the capital of Lower Hungary; which is composed of two towns, divided by the Danube, and called, in Hungarian and German, Pesth and Ofen:

Much as our capital feels the want of a regular promenade, and of walks in the neighbourhood, one division thereof, to wit, Ofen, is in this respect so far fortunate, as possessing agreeable ramparts and romantic environs. Neither have those inhabitants of Pesth who can command either horses of their own or hackney coaches, or who are fond of long walks, any cause for complaint. For my own part, I felt no longing for a mall, since even in the Park of the Milanese *Corso* I never walked with more satisfaction than at Pesth, of an evening, along the bank of the Danube, from the Theatre to the Commercial-house, and back through the beautiful *Dorotheen-gasse*.\* I mean not to assert that the *Corso* of Milan, and the *Spasseggiata* of Palermo, possess not more attractions, greater beauties; but here likewise is beauty. The majestic river on this side, the line of symmetrical houses on the other, the picturesque site of Ofen, the Observatory, the Citadel, with the residence of his Imperial Highness the Archduke Palatine; and there, between rugged rocks, upon the side of a naked hill, the loveliest gardens, brought thither, it should seem, by magic, and proving how completely the powers of art and industry can triumph over the most stepmotherly disposition of Nature. To the north-west the magnificent vine-clad hills, and his Imperial Highness's island amid the glassy stream of the Danube, afford an attractive landscape, which I must always prefer to the captivating gloom of rustling alleys, where dandies and coquetish dolls are eternally fluttering. The troublesome dust might of yore be more fairly complained of, than now that most of the streets are watered: the evil is not, however, completely remedied. When I occasionally wished, remote from the bustle of a town, to give myself wholly up to the beauties of nature, I would cross the bridge at early dawn, pass the countrified Christinenstadt and the City Farm, into the so-called *Aueinkel* (literally corner of a meadow), stroll at pleasure in the romantic valley, climb the rock projecting betwixt the green hills, to enjoy the prospect over the hill-vineyards and towards the capital, dine at the *traiteur's* in the cheerful *réunion* of a select society—always to be found there on fine summer days,—and return in the evening to the hubbub of the Danube bridge,

where all the life of Ofen and of Pesth is concentrated. What advantages do not Pesth and Ofen enjoy in the neighbouring agreeable and salubrious baths—Eisenbad, Bruckbad, Königbad, and Kaiserbad? The Town Wood is to the Pesthians, what the *Prater* is to the Viennese. It cannot, indeed, compare with this last in life and variety; the *Königsgasse*,† through which one drives out, is, it must be confessed, no *Jägerzeile*;† yet the way thither, through regular avenues, is assuredly very agreeable.

A visit to Bartfeld, a fashionable Hungarian watering-place, situated at the foot of the Carpathian mountains, and the mode of life there, are thus described:

The valley of the Toplya is assuredly the most pleasing in the Palatinate of Saros. A rich corn-bearing level, through which winds the Toplya, is encircled by fruitful hills and mountains, wherein nestle seven peaceful villages.

Here I was so happy as to enjoy, during several summer months, the pleasures of a country life, in a highly polished society; and there the long-wished-for opportunity of visiting Bartfeld presented itself.

We took the shortest road, by Marhány—inasmuch as, in consequence of the long drought, the Toplya, which we had to cross full twelve times, allowed us so to do. A five-hours' drive brought us to our destination, and lodged us in the Henselmann Establishment, close to the mineral spring. Scarcely had we alighted, ere we hurried off to the town, where I made the agreeable acquaintance of the Chief Judge, Herr Stephan von Kapy, who is justly esteemed one of our best and most talented musical amateurs. The little town, one of the oldest in Hungary, lies about half a mile (German) from the Baths, in a narrow valley.

In the evening we returned to the mineral spring. The Walk was all alive, until the braying of a trumpet called to the theatre, where a Hungarian company performed Othello. The house was of wood, but tolerably roomy, and quite full. At Bartfeld, where lodgings are provided for some thousands of visitors, whither flock so many Hungarians and numbers of Poles, almost all endowed with taste and a lively sense of the beautiful—at this beautiful and lovely Bartfeld one really might have looked for a handsome theatre: it need not be a gorgeous colonnaded temple—nay, a wooden edifice might answer the purpose; but the form, and especially the painting and decorations, ought to be regulated by a better taste. The finest acting, the exquisite life of the stage, must perforce lose, if not all, yet much of their effect, in a boarded hut, resembling a village alehouse. Szerdahelyi and Déry, as Othello and Desdemona, sang admirably; but, to be good, an opera requires much, especially a good orchestra. The theatre is well frequented, and scarcely any body wishes for a German company. It is delightful to find the hearts of the nobility glowing with so much love for the Magyar language, in a district where the Slavonian dialect prevails; and it were to be wished that Hungarian actors might henceforward—honoured as they have been here—find their account in visiting the different baths and towns of Hungary. No hatred on account of diversity of language and religion ought to divide a nation living under

\* Name of a street.

† Name of a street.

one paternal government; each should have a fair field; every one who contributes anything to the welfare of the nation deserves praise and recompense; every one can be useful in his sphere—every one therefore deserves esteem, whether he speak this or that language, whether he profess this or that creed. \* \* \*

It is on St. Anne's day that Bartfeld appears in all its glory; and so I have seen it to-day.

Although music resounded in most directions, and the walks and roads swarmed with a party-coloured human crowd, yet it cannot be said that, in proportion to the numbers of magnates and nobles here resident, splendour and gaiety strikingly enlivened the beautiful grove. The cause is said to lie not in a spirit of economy, but in actual want of money. Poles and Hungarians are reciprocally desirous of outshining each other, wherefore many prefer to draw back altogether, rather than make a moderate display, and even that, perhaps, with difficulty.

After the play, all the world repaired to the spacious ball-room. The music was good; the dancing ladies were, for the most part, very elegantly dressed, and possessed some beauty, and the only possible subject for complaint was the crowd. In proportion as the theatre is defective, is the ball-room pretty, and suited to its purpose. Connected with it are billiard, card, and supper rooms. At the faro-table, no dearth of cash was perceptible.

Although, despite the heat and dust, I could not, or rather would not, forbear dancing with some of our beauties, and so spent the ball-night right pleasantly in the very lap of social enjoyment, yet were the two following days more interesting to me. The one, because it procured me the acquaintance of Herr J. von Sz., a man alike distinguished for his humane disposition and for his general knowledge; the other, on account of a delightful excursion to Shoro, where the hundred lime trees recall the bloody times of Rákóczy.

Bartfeld unquestionably is one of the most agreeable watering places in Hungary. The site is romantic—the walks in the wood are delicious—the mall is spacious, and well frequented. The mineral water is strong, and pleasant to drink; the baths are powerfully chalybeate, and furnished with every convenience.

Great part of the volume is filled with—what has now, thank Heaven! lost much of its interest—anti-cholera regulations, and their execution, exhibiting the inefficiency of such measures, at least under despotic governments, to produce aught save inconvenience: stying up numbers of human beings in a small room, by way of lazaretto, detaining those whose cash was short, or exhausted, in towns where they had no means of subsistence, whilst the wealthy, by bribes and long circuits, foiled all prohibitions, and the like, are among the results. But, ere laying down the pen, we must not omit to say, that our author is himself a Magyar, and would have written his book in Magyar, had he been sufficiently master of the language—A tour in Hungary, to be read by Hungarians only!

*Memoirs of John Napier of Merchiston, his Lineage, Life, and Times; with a History of the Invention of Logarithms.* By Mark Napier. 4to.

[Second Notice.]

THESE Memoirs are very unequally written. They consist of two great divisions—one comprehending the personal history of the philosopher, the genealogy of his family, fragments of the family history of many Scottish houses of distinction, and occasional illustrations of some dark passages in the annals of

Scotland; the other a criticism on Napier's works, and an attempt to fix the philosopher's place in the scale of intellect. The latter portion, though by far the more difficult part of the task which the biographer has assigned to himself, is the better executed. There is considerable power and discrimination in some of his criticisms, together with a display of knowledge of the history of the sciences of extension and numbers, somewhat imposing in its character. The means of such a display are, it is true, within the reach of men of very limited scientific acquirements; yet we see no reason to doubt that the present biographer of John Napier has devoted considerable attention to the subjects, which that great discoverer illustrated, and the boundaries of which he so mightily enlarged.

The first part of the work, though weak and gossiping, is yet heavy. The aristocratic partialities of the author are obtrusive; and his displays of heraldic and genealogical knowledge wearisome. His devotion to the subject of his work is paraded on all occasions; and his attempts to justify it are not always of the most successful kind. Napier was not only, according to his biographer and namesake, the greatest man whom Scotland ever produced, but, if we do not misconstrue certain indications which present themselves at intervals throughout the work, the greatest man by whom the world has yet been enlightened. Do we blame this zeal on the part of Napier's biographer? Far from it; but we cannot avoid contrasting the magnitude of the pretensions urged in Napier's name, with the feebleness of the style in which these pretensions are defended, and with the very limited knowledge of the merits of the advancers of the land-marks of other departments of science, which this champion of Napier's glories exhibits.

The following passage, while it unfolds the object of the present work, introduces us to one of the author's prevailing theories, and throws some light on the general character of his opinions:—

"It may be said that his biographer can be neither more nor less than a chapter of human knowledge in its loftiest departments; and it is usual to dismiss the mortal genealogies of the sons of science with almost contemptuous brevity. But the pride of intellect which affects a supercilious disdain for an historical lineage or hereditary honour, if less absurd, is perhaps more mischievous than the pride of ancestry. Applied to the history of philosophers the proposition seems questionable, that it is 'more honourable to have achieved fame and eminence without the advantages of high birth, than with their assistance.' Necessity is the mother of invention, and poverty has been found the most faithful nurse of genius. Napier incurred a greater risk of never attaining his throne in letters, from the wealth of his family, and the courtly and historical connections of his house, than if his parentage could only have been traced to a hovel. Ramus was reared as a shepherd, Ben Jonson as a bricklayer, Longomontanus was the son of a labourer, Metastasio of a common mechanic, Haydn's father was a wheelwright, Linneus was bred a shoemaker, and the fiery spark of Franklin's genius was struck from the forge of a blacksmith. Without multiplying examples, or taking any from our own country, where the instances are too modern to be within the pale of courteous observation, it may be safely said, that the annals of letters are gorged with illustrious proofs that the sons of the lowly may become the lights of the world.

"Yet the illustrious transatlantic philosopher whom we have named, while expressing exultation in his victory over the difficulties of an inferior origin, evinces at the same time an aristocratic anxiety to surround the smitings of his ancestors with the halo of antiquity and hereditary right. \* \* \*

"But in the British Isles at least, the cottage school of knowledge is not unrivalled; nor can it be said, that with us genius only flashes, like the lightning, from the bosom of obscurity. While such names as Bacon, Boyle, and Byron, illustrate the aristocracy of England and Ireland, those of Napier and Scott belong to the feudal history of their country.† The magnitude of these examples outweighs the multitude opposed; and the contemplation is consolatory and wholesome to the higher classes of society.

"The instance of Napier is peculiarly striking. In his own country, where he has no monument but his works, he as far excels all her philosophers in a comparison of intellectual achievement, as in the curious and quaint antiquities of his race; and of him it is that England's greatest historian has recorded an estimate, true to this hour, that he was 'the person to whom the title of a GREAT MAN is more justly due than to any other whom his country ever produced.'‡

The note appended to this dissertation is, perhaps, the most curious portion of our extract. From it we learn that our Scottish neighbours are half inclined to claim Newton as a countryman! We never saw the point mooted before. We do not despair, however, of yet seeing Shakspeare and Bacon proved to be Scotchmen!

As to Mr. Napier's speculation about the respective influences of poverty and wealth on genius, we must observe that it is one of the most inconsequential which has ever attracted our notice. Both poverty and wealth undoubtedly exercise, in different circumstances, the most contradictory influences on genius. The nature of the genius must be taken into account as well as the nature of the circumstances which act upon it. There may be, and perhaps are, some kinds of genius which flourish only when the pressure of vulgar distresses is removed from them. There may be, and probably are, other kinds of genius, on which adversity acts as flint does on steel. Nothing can, however, be more unsafe than to lay down, as the author before us does, rules as to the influence of circumstances on genius in the abstract. Some, besides, of Mr. Napier's propositions, though of common acceptance, are obviously unsound, when pushed beyond a certain very limited point. Thus, what can be more erroneous than his broad and unqualified intimation, that "necessity is the mother of invention, and poverty has been found the most faithful nurse of genius"? If necessity be inevitably, and in all circum-

"I have not instanced Sir Isaac Newton, because his mighty name belongs to the debatable land in this question. According to his latest biography, neither England nor Scotland, the aristocracy nor the people, can positively claim him. Sir David Brewster, after stating the *pros* and *cons* on the subject, adds, 'all these circumstances prove that Sir Isaac Newton could not trace his pedigree with any certainty beyond his grandfather; and that there were two different traditions in his family—one which referred his descent to John Newton of Westbury, and the other to a gentleman of East Lothian, who accompanied King James VI. to England. In a letter addressed to me by the learned George Chalmers, Esq., I find the following observations respecting the immediate relations of Sir Isaac: The Newtons of Woolsthorpe (says he), who were merely yeomen farmers, were not by any means opulent. The son of Sir Isaac's father's brother was a carpenter called John.'"

"† Hume's History of England, vii. 44."

stances, the mother of invention, it must follow, that wherever necessity exists, there will be found inventive talent. We are afraid that a careful survey of society will scarcely justify such anticipations. If, again, "poverty has been found the most faithful nurse of genius," it must follow, that no portion of that genius which nature has vouchsafed to the poor, has ever been lost to the world! Yet no one has ever mixed extensively with the humbler orders of society without perceiving, on all sides, traces of very high talent, of various kinds, running to waste, or in a state of absolute suspension!

If we are to understand the proposition, that "necessity is the mother of invention," in the sense in which Mr. Napier would employ it, we ought undoubtedly to look to the most barbarous periods of social history, as to the eras of the most sublime inventions which grace the annals of mankind; and instead of securing academical retreats for the calm pursuits of learning, we ought to expose our students to all the bustle and interruptions of the world!

Again, if Napier's merits are to be considered, in conformity with the suggestion of his biographer, as enhanced by the circumstance of his not having been a poor man, then, assuredly, we cannot admit the validity of another claim which the author of these Memoirs advances on behalf of the inventor of Logarithms. That other claim rests on the imperfect aids which contemporary science imparted to Napier. The biographer, in contrasting Napier with Newton, dwells with much force on the comparative facilities for prosecuting discovery which Newton enjoyed. But if those facilities were of advantage to Newton, our author's proposition about the quickening influences of NECESSITY on genius must be rejected at once!

We have, perhaps, pursued these considerations too far. We hasten therefore to lay before the reader some of the more interesting passages from the first portion of the work:—

"John Graham of Hallyards succeeded to the office which Sir Archibald Napier had held, of justice-depute to the Earl of Argyll, some time before the 12th of January 1579; and at the trial of Morton in 1581, he presided in that capacity. On the trial of Gowrie in 1584, he was appointed justice by special commission; and immediately thereafter obtained the place of an ordinary Lord of Session in the room of Robert Pont, who was then removed under a peremptory act, incapacitating 'all persons exercising functions of ministration within the kirk of God to bear or exercise any office of civil jurisdiction.' David Moyse the notary, who has left a very curious journal of his times, records, that in June 1590, 'The Lordis of Session wer intendit to be altered, and sum accusations past betwix Mr. John Grahame and Mr. David Mc'Gill, bairne Lordis of the Session, atther of thame accusing utheris of bryberie and kneaverie.' But he afterwards became involved in a matter yet more serious, and which proved fatal to him. The estate of Hallyards consisted of temple lands, which Graham had obtained through his wife, the widow of Sir James Sandilands of Calder. That lady held them upon a title granted by her first husband, whose tenants in those lands had a preferable right of possession. To defeat this, a deed was forged by a notary at the suggestion of William Graham, a brother of the Lord of Session, by which it was made to appear that these tenants had yielded their preferable right; and consequently, they were cast in an action raised to establish it. But the forgery

was discovered, and the notary hanged; upon which Mr. John Graham raised another action against the minister of Sterling, who, he alleged, had extorted a false confession from the unfortunate notary. This proceeding brought the General Assembly of the Church and the Court of Session into violent collision. The Assembly cited Graham to appear before it, and answer for his scandal against the church. The Court of Session stood up for the independence of their own jurisdiction and members; and sent their president Lord Provand, with the Lords Culross and Barnbarrach, as a deputation to the ecclesiastical court, disclaiming the Assembly's right to interfere in the matter. Both jurisdictions were obstinate, and the dispute was quashed without being properly adjusted. The result was, that the tenants of the temple lands pursued the young heir of the original proprietor, whose tutor and uncle, Sir James Sandilands, took up the matter with all the vindictive violence of the times. The Duke of Lennox lent his powerful aid; and, says Calderwood, 'upon Tuesday, 13th February 1593, Mr. John Graham of Hallyards went out of Edinburgh towards Leith, being charged to departe off the town. The Duke and Sir James Sandilands following as it were, with clubs in their hands, and coming down Leith Wynd, one of Mr. John's company looked back, and seeing them, they turned to make resistance. The Duke sent and willed them to go forward, promising no man should invade them; yet Mr. John Graham's company shot, whereupon the Duke suffered Sir James and his company to do for themselves. Mr. John was shot; his company fled before ever he was carried to a house. Sir Alexander Stuart's page, a French boy, seeing his master (Sir Alexander) slain, followed Mr. John Graham into the house, *dowped a whinger into him*, and so dispatched him. Before this encounter, Mr. John was accompanied with three or four score.' The tragic end of this unhappy Lord of Session affords a curious picture of the times, and shows that our philosopher acted wisely in his endeavours to prevent *cummers* in such matters, and in his anxiety to '*mell with na sik extraordinary doings*.' Probably his letter is of a date long previous to the death of Graham, and it may be before the latter was elevated from his justiceship to the Bench. Perhaps the deed quoted has reference to the period when John Napier encountered such perilous disputes in the management of his father's estate. The autographs will interest the reader. The royal signature is of James VI. while he was yet a youth. That of Montrose is of the grandfather of the lady who became the wife of John Napier's eldest son and was the sister of the great marquiss. He was high chancellor, and viceroy of Scotland after James succeeded to the throne of England. As for the signature of Morton, the right hand that traced it is recorded in blood. The Lord Maxwell, a celebrated border noble, obtained a grant of the Earldom of Morton (upon the fall of the regent) in the year 1581, of which, however, he was deprived a few years afterwards. A deadly feud arose betwixt the Maxwells and the Johnstones; and in the celebrated battle fought betwixt them, the Lord Maxwell or Morton, being borne to the ground, stretched out his right hand for quarter, but it was instantly severed from his body. In the meanwhile, a certain feudal lady of the Johnstone clan issued from a family fortress, (which she had valiantly defended,) attended by a single female, and with the keys of the tower hanging on her arm. On the field of battle 'she saw lying beneath a thorn-tree, a tall, grey-haired, noble-looking man, arrayed in bright armour, but bare-headed, and bleeding to death from the loss of his right hand. He asked her for mercy and help with a faltering voice; but the idea of deadly feud, in that

time and country, closed all access to compassion even in the female bosom. She saw before her only the enemy of her clan and the cause of her father's captivity and death; and raising the ponderous keys which she bore along with her, the *Lady of Lockerby* is commonly reported to have dashed out the brains of the vanquished Lord Maxwell.' Such, gentle reader, were the characters and habits of Lords of Session, noblemen, and ladies, in the times of our philosopher, and with many of whom, notwithstanding the quiet and studious retirement of his own habits, he must have come into occasional contact."

The defeat of the Spanish Armada was commonly ascribed to the influence of magic; and that great event would appear to have first turned the thoughts of Napier to the Apocalypse.

"The mind of Napier was particularly agitated upon this occasion. He had been long brooding over the depths of the Apocalypse, and began to perceive a divine light breaking upon his hitherto obscure lucubrations. The sequel I shall give in his own words. 'Then,' says he, 'greatly rejoicing in the Lord, I began to write thereof in Latin; yet I purposed not to have set out the same suddenly, and far less to have written the same also in English, til that of late, this new insolence of Papists, arising about the 1588 year of God, and daily increasing within this island, doth so pitie our hearts, seeing them put more trust in Jesuites and seminarie priests than in the true Scriptures of God, and in the Pope and King of Spaine than in the King of Kings, that to prevent the same, I was constrained of compassion, leaving the Latin, to haste out in English this present worke, almost unripe, that thereby the simple of this island may be instructed, the godly confirmed, and the proud and foolish expectations of the wicked beaten downe; purposing hereafter, God willing, to publish shortly the other Latin edition hereof, to the publike utilitie of the whole church.' One great object was to awaken and alarm the conscience of King James, whose duplicity and inconsistent conduct harassed the church at home while beset by powerful enemies from abroad. Our philosopher proposed, therefore, to address his commentaries to that prince with such a solemn warning as the times suggested, and his majesty's conduct seemed to require. But in the beginning of the winter 1589, James was absent on his matrimonial expedition to Denmark. When he returned with his consort in the following year, he found every department of his government unusually tranquil, owing chiefly to the judicious management of the affairs of the church by Robert Bruce of Airth, aided in his exertions by such laymen as John Napier and Thomas Craig of Riccarton, who were at the same time members of the General Assembly. The whole country now became engrossed with the ceremony of the coronation, and great cordiality prevailed betwixt the church and the court. James was submissive to his clergy, and the clergy played the part of courtiers as well as they could."

"At this time Sir James Chisholm, who was the king's master of household, had fallen under no persecution, and was not even suspected. Yet since at least the close of the year 1519, he had become deeply involved in a treasonable plot to aid Spain against Britain; and various members of his family were amongst the most active plotters. His uncle William Chisholm, the Ex-Bishop of Dunblane, and now of Vason in France, where he had been driven for his adherence to the Catholic cause and the fortunes of Queen Mary, was of great account among the Jesuits, and seems to have been the person through whom Sir James was seduced. The bishop's other nephew John was the party employed to carry money from Spain to aid the



cause in Scotland. This appears from the terms of a letter which fell into the hands of the Protestants after the plot was discovered. It is addressed by one Bruce, a Papist, to the Duke of Parma, written in French cypher, and dated from Edinburgh 24th January 1589. According to the translation made of it upon disclosure, it commences by informing the Duke that 'Monsieur Chesholme' had arrived in Scotland after a voyage of five days; that he instantly proceeded to the Earl of Huntly, and delivered letters from the duke to that nobleman in his own house in Dumfermline on the 13th of October: the letter then acknowledges receipt by the hand of John Chisholm of 'sax thousand twa hundreth thre scoir twelve crounis of the sum, and three thousand sevin hundreth Spanish pistolets' from the Duke of Parma. The writer proceeds to detail the plans and resources of the Spanish party in Scotland, and adds, 'likewise I sall help myself by the prudence of Schir James Chesholme, eldest brother to the said John quha brocht the money from your hienes, for he is a man confident, wise, one on our pairt, and very little suspect.' It appears, however, that some suspicion had arisen against the family at this time, for the same letter mentions, that one Thomas Tyrie had reported to King James that Bishop William had spoken with the Duke of Parma, very much to his majesty's disadvantage, and that John Chisholme was also in close communication with his uncle the bishop.

"Thus the celebrated plot of 'the Spanish blanks' was organized; and when nearly ripe, the person selected to fire the train, by carrying the treasonable papers abroad, was John Napier's father-in-law, the grandfather of his numerous second family. Probably that prudence, which might have added success to the scheme had Sir James followed out the first plan, saved him from so perilous a part in the conspiracy. George Kerr, finding it impossible to live in comfort or safety in Scotland under his sentence of excommunication, was on the eve of quitting the country; and it was finally arranged that the commission should be transferred to him. While he was waiting for further instructions, near the Island of Cumray, Andrew Knox, the minister of Paisley, acquired secret intelligence of the plot, and with a spirit and determination worthy the name he bore, proceeded with some armed men, and several Protestant gentlemen, on board of the vessel where Kerr was, and instantly seized him. Various treasonable letters and papers were discovered in the coat sleeve of one of the mariners. Graham of Fintry and Barclay of Ladyland were apprehended about the same time. This important intelligence reached Edinburgh upon a Sunday during divine service. The sensation was so great that the clergymen brought their sermons to a speedy conclusion, and exhorted the people to arm themselves immediately in order to insure the safe custody of the prisoners. These unfortunate individuals, escorted by a sort of national guard hastily got up among the townsmen, were lodged in the tolbooth of Edinburgh. Meetings and solemn conventions of the ministers and well-affected barons followed, which at once alarmed and enraged the monarch, who 'was haistit from his pastyme sonar nor he thocht to have bene.' His presence was the more necessary, that three earls, Huntly, Angus, and Errol, were deeply implicated,—their signatures having been found to certain suspicious blanks among the papers; and before the king's arrival in Edinburgh, the Earl of Angus had been carried a prisoner to the castle.

"A most disgraceful scene, not generally noticed by our historians, now occurred before the privy-council. George Kerr would make no confessions; and it was proposed to put him in the *bootkins*, an infernal instrument of torture, worthy of the most savage age of heathen per-

secution. The justice-clerk, Sir Lewis Bellen-den, alarmed at the menaces of Kerr's friends, refused to comply; but the monarch himself ordered the torture to proceed. The nature of it was to lacerate and crush the limb of the sufferer, by driving iron wedges between the shin bone and the iron boot, the interrogatories being repeated at each successive stroke of the hammer. Kerr's fortitude was proof against the dreadful preparatives, and the first blow; but upon the application of a second, he cried out for mercy, and said he would confess all. The substance of his deposition taken on the 13th February 1592-3 was,—that in June 1592, Sir James Chisholm had obtained from the Earls of Angus and Errol, in their own lodgings in Edinburgh, their respective signatures in French, as if addressed to the King of Spain, but with blanks above, to be filled up by one Mr. William Crichton, a Jesuit, as he pleased,—that the other blanks produced, with their respective signatures, had been procured about the same time, and that Sir James Chisholme held secret conferences on the subject with David Graham of Fintrie and the witness Kerr,—that at first the noblemen implicated had agreed that Sir James 'quha wes then one of his majestie's maister houshaldis, suld have gone to Spain with this commission, in respect he wes uthewise bounit towardis his uncle Maister William Chesholme, callit Bischop of Dumblane, for Schir James had the first creidit of this erand with the nobillmen,' &c.; but not being ready in time, and 'Maister George Ker being bounit off the cuntry, it wes thoct best that the same commission suld be gevin to him,' and 'he wes employed in that errand the rather because baith his gudames were Creichtouns.' The result contemplated was, that 30,000 men should land out of Spain on the west coast of Scotland, march to Carlisle, and invade England, leaving 5000 Spaniards with the noblemen in Scotland to proclaim liberty of conscience. David Graham deposed to the same effect. On the 15th of February, the Earl of Angus made his escape from the castle; and upon the 16th, Fintrie, more dead than alive, and certainly the least guilty of all concerned, was beheaded at the Cross. But Kerr's life was spared, and he was sent to the castle of Edinburgh, from which he too made his escape on the 20th of June following."

We must again return to this work. In the meantime, we think it right to say, that even the desultory gossiping which we have remarked on in the first part, brings us acquainted with many curious facts connected with the history of Napier's family and his country.

*Meine Gefangenschaft in Russland, in den Jahren 1812 und 1813—[My Captivity in Russia, in the years 1812 and 1813].* By F. L. von Lindenau, Major in the Prussian Army, &c. Konneburg: F. Weber; London, Black & Young.

THE first remark to which this tiny volume gave birth in our minds, arose as we contemplated its *lengthy* title-page, whereof, by the bye, we have omitted much. That remark, if it may be so called, was wonder how a Prussian officer should have remained a prisoner of war in Russia in 1813, when the King of Prussia had become the ally of the Moscovite Czar. This difficulty was cleared up as we read on, not indeed by any express explanation of the gallant officer's, but solely by our own sagacity—we hope, under the circumstances, to be pardoned this self-eulogy. We discovered that Herr von Lindenau is by birth a Saxon, and concluded

that he had only become a Prussian subject since 1813, by the division of Saxony, operated at Vienna. Prussian or Saxon, the Major's book has somewhat disappointed us. Taken prisoner on the 12th of August, 1812, during Napoleon's advance into Russia, he spent seventeen months of captivity, on parole, at Kiew and Bialystock; but passing his time with his Saxon fellow-prisoners, he seems to have seen, or at least to have remembered and recorded, wondrous little of Russian ways and manners, though he praises the kindness and hospitality he met with. Of that little, however, some is new to us, and so much as seems curious or amusing we shall impart to our readers. The Kiew population is thus described:—

We here find a strong-built, thickset race of men. The middle classes dress pretty much in the German fashion, with hair fashionably cut. The poorer tradesman wears the Polish garb, with his hair cut round, in the Russian style. In winter he covers his head with a cap, in summer with a low round hat, or a light *Tschapka*. The peasant goes with his neck and breast uncovered, his beard unshorn, and his body clad in a tight garment of coarse brown, mostly home-woven cloth, fastened with a gaily coloured sash round his loins. He is usually shod with sandals. The body-linen, made in a very peculiar fashion, consists of a coloured stuff, the favourite wear, indeed, of all classes. The dress of the women much resembles that of the men. The countrywomen wear, like them, brown cloth, with gaudy sashes; a Capuchin's hood or cowl, which in summer falls back, is drawn over the head in winter or foul weather. In summer they wear a sort of net wound about their hair. They (the women) are skilful in the management of carts, with horse or even bullock teams; and are great lovers of brandy. The wives and daughters of tradesmen dress themselves nicely, and even tastefully. Their winter garb consists of a fur pelisse, with a standing collar of silk or cloth, and reaching to the feet, upon which they wear half boots; but in summer, shoes and blue or dark-coloured stockings. Unmarried women wear nothing on their heads, but their hair braided in long thick tresses, that hang down to the waist, and end in a bow of ribbon; married women wear a coloured silk handkerchief, fringed, and worked in gold or silver, twisted about the head, and hanging in a point behind, so as to conceal the hair. These handkerchiefs cost from ten to thirty rubles. The summer dress consists of a cloth *camisole*, gaily bordered, and with long skirts. The more refined classes receive the fashions from St. Petersburg and Moscow. The dress of the Russian clergy, except when officiating in church, consists of a long, coloured gown and a high fur cap, which, in summer, they exchange for a low round hat. They wear their hair parted in front, and hanging low over their shoulders behind; and usually carry a long stick.

The Kiew system of tea-making is as surprising to us as to our Major, although an expression in one of Victor Jacquemont's letters from India induces a suspicion that it is practised in France—learned perhaps from the Cossacks:—

Nowhere is tea to be found of such excellence, or in such variety, as here; and I must say a few words respecting the mode of making tea at social parties and in families. The lady of the house, who has the tea-machine, with boiling water before her, (whether this machine be an urn or a teapot we confess ourselves at a loss to determine,) fills a tumbler with raw tea, within about a thumb's breadth of the brim, pours the boiling liquid upon the tea, and covers the glass whilst the tea draws for a few minutes.

She then throws away what is called the wild water, puts the tea into the machine, and serves the agreeably-flavoured beverage to her company. When every one present has had a cup of this infusion, the tea-machine is emptied of its contents, replenished with boiling water, and the operation is repeated. The tea-leaves taken out of the tea-machine are afterwards dried by the servants and sold.

The ceremonial of interments, and the sort of annual festival of the dead, are strange, although the admixture of a jollification with mourning be not altogether unprecedented, Irish wakes affording something of the kind. After describing the well-known mode of celebrating Easter in the Greek church, our Major proceeds to say:—

The holidays terminate with a festival of the dead, held in the church-yard. This takes place on the first Monday after Easter week, when all hurry to the cemeteries, situated upon the adjacent hills, to visit the graves of their parents, friends and relations. Each family forms its own circle, into which no stranger may intrude. The air resounds with the loud prayers and sobs of the mourners, and when sorrow has thus at last exhausted its violence, a corpse-meal is served upon the tombs, to which nothing is wanting. During this repast the clergy perform the office for the dead in the open churches, and at the close of the ceremony the mourners distribute money and victuals to the poor. The festival lasts until a late hour of the evening, when the church-yards become more animated, from the usual effect of the immoderate use of spirituous liquors.

The interment of the dead is conducted in a singular manner. When the soul has departed, the body lies for three days in the house, wherein psalms are read. The priest then presents himself, and offers up a short prayer, after which the corpse is carried, uncovered, to the church, and only there inclosed in the coffin. At the funerals of the rich, the road of the corpse, from the house to the church, is strewn with box-leaves and flowers. The rich are usually buried in the churches; otherwise they are carried to the church-yard, and there interred with a short prayer; which done, the priest returns with the mourners to the church. In the middle of the sacred edifice is now placed a vessel of good rice broth, of which every one partakes at discretion. This custom is seldom observed amongst the higher classes, and is probably of great antiquity.

Upon his return home, after Saxony had joined the allies, our Major witnesses a Polish Jewish wedding, with his account of which we shall conclude:—

Koretz, where we took up our quarters for the night, remains vividly impressed upon my recollection from our having there lighted upon a Jewish wedding. The ceremonial began with a procession, brilliant in its own way, in which the wealth and treasure of the Israelites shone forth. The overloaded caps of some individuals were actually stiff with fine pearls, and I was assured that some of those caps were worth from 100 to 200 ducats. The procession paraded the streets, after which the whole party repaired to a festive marriage banquet. The next morning the newly-married pair receive a visit of an unusual description; their visitors entering the apartment by the window instead of the door, and fairly routing the young couple from the nuptial couch.

We think a modest Jewish bride might bargain for a many-storied house, and a chamber at a sufficient height from the ground to render this indelicate intrusion a matter at least of some difficulty, if not hazard, to the visitors.

*Miriam Coffin; or, the Whale-fishermen.*  
A Tale. 3 vols. London: Whittaker.

THE best that can be said of this novel is, that it brings us acquainted with a peculiar people—a sort of hybrid generation between quakers and whale-fishermen, who inhabit the little barren island of Nantucket, one of a cluster off the coast of Massachusetts. For many reasons, we incline to think that it is the work of a young and inexperienced writer—there are some scenes in it sketched with skill, but the hand is not firm and sure, and the writer wants the power to weave them together, so that the whole should form a continuous narrative of sustained interest. Story there is none—so that the best we can do either for author or reader, is to detach one or two of these scenes. Here is an account of the preparations for the great annual festival, the Sheep-shearing:—

“By sunrise the selectmen, or magnates of the town, dressed in their ‘best bib-and-tucker,’ were seen moving towards the common in a body. The solemn importance of the office, and the magnitude of their calling, were observable in their prim and sedate carriage, while acting in their official capacity of umpires or judges in the division of the fleece, or in determining the ownership of the sheep whose marks had been obliterated or defaced. Next came the inhabitants and their guests—staying not for precedence, or the order of going forth—but bending their hasty steps to the common. These were immediately followed by a train of carts and calèches, or those little two-wheeled vehicles peculiar to Nantucket, and adapted, by their uncommon lightness and small friction of the hub and axle, to the sandy soil—if such may be dignified by the name of soil which forms the superstratum of the island. The heavier and more capacious carriages were laden with the profusion of good things, carefully provided against the great day by every family, and destined for the comfortable refreshment of the body during the progress of the shearing. Each family had reared its own tent, and now garnished the suburban board with its choicest provisions. With some, the savings of a whole year were liberally and anxiously appropriated to furnish the various appointments of tents and camp equipage, and the other paraphernalia of meats, bread-stuffs, and vegetables. \* \* \*

“It was not, however, the congregation of the flocks, and the temptations for the appetite, that solely constituted the interest of the scene. The shearing, as it is called, is seized upon, also, as a fitting occasion for the free interchange of those friendly courtesies that so signally distinguish and cement the families of the island, whose pursuits and whose gains,—whether on land or on sea,—are in a measure common to the whole. The success of one is sure to bring gain and prosperity to his neighbour. Their sheep and their cattle feed and herd together on the same unenclosed pasturage, which of itself is owned in common by the islanders, and denominated the property of the town. The success of a whaling-ship at sea brings joy and worldly store, not only to the owners, but to the crew and their families in their due proportions. The people are thus linked together by the strongest ties—by a sort of community of interest. The failure of pasturage, or blight in the flocks, curtails the enjoyments of all; and a disastrous voyage affects, in the same degree, the property and happiness of all the members of the little community:—

—If there is sorrow there,  
It runs through many bosoms;—but a smile  
Lights up, in eyes around, a kindred smile.

“But there are other considerations that weigh with the inhabitants, and mark the wis-

dom of the founders, if so they may be called, of this annual festival. Friends and relatives, long sundered and kept apart by a wide expanse of water, now make it a point to cross the Sound which divides them; and a pretty general assemblage upon the island at the shearing, though but for once in the year, compensates in a considerable degree for the long separation, and for the slender and unvarying amusements of the isolated settlement. The reunion is not unlike that of the aged grandfather who assembles his children and his grandchildren, during the Christmas holidays, at his own festive board; and, by promoting general hilarity and exciting the buoyant mirth of his youthful descendants, adds thereby to his own happiness, while he contributes to that of those who surround him.”

Having thus introduced the reader to the islanders at home, we shall give him an account of their proceedings at sea in a whaling excursion:—

“The animal, gorged with its fishy meal, at last commenced its retreat from the bay; and the boats manoeuvred to head him off as he retired. Obeying the instinct of his nature, he now showed his floes and vanished from the sight, before the boats could get within striking distance. A calculation being made where he would next appear, (for beneath the water the whale does not deviate from a direct line in his horizontal progress,) a general race ensued; and each strove, as if life were on the issue, to arrive first upon the spot. Some twenty minutes’ steady and vigorous pulling found the foremost boats a full mile behind the whale, when he rose again to breathe. Several boats were unluckily ahead of Seth in the chase, as their position at starting enabled them to take the lead, when the animal began to push for deeper water. But Seth’s men had been resting on their oars, while nearly all others had exhausted their strength, in following the whale among the ships; and the captain judged rightly, that, in darting after his tiny prey, he would lead them all a bootless dance. He had determined to wait for the retreat, and then to hang upon the rear of the enemy. There were others, however, acquainted with the soundings of the bay, whose tactics were scarce inferior to Seth’s; and the advantage gained over him by several boats was proof of this, or at least of the superior accuracy of their calculations. \* \* \*

“‘You must beat those foreigners ahead,’ said Seth to his men, ‘or crack your oars: they are of good American ash, and will bear pulling,’ continued he:—‘Give way with a will!—Pull—pull, my lads;—that whale will not sink again without a harpoon in his body;—and ‘twill never do to tell of at home that we allowed men of other nations to beat us. Keep your eyes steadily on your oars;—mark the stroke of the after oar, men—and give way for the credit of the Grampus!’

“Here Seth braced himself in the stern-sheets—seized the steering oar with his left hand, and placed his right foot against the after oar, just below the hand of the oarsman.

“‘Now pull for your lives!’ said he, ‘while I add the strength of my leg to the oar:—Once more;—Again, my boys!—Once more.’ \* \* \*

“‘There is but one boat ahead,’ said Seth;—‘it is the Englishman!—We must beat him too, or we have gained nothing! Away with her—down upon him like men!—One pull for the Grampus, my boys!—another for old Nantuck!’

“The American now shot up alongside of the English boat:—but the honour of the nation too, was at stake; they bent to their oars with fresh vigour. Five athletic Englishmen, each with a bare chest that would have served for the model of a Hercules,—with arms of brawn and sinew,—swayed their oars with a precision

and an earnestness, that, for a minute, left the contest doubtful. The English commander, seeing how effectually Seth managed the stroke oar with his foot, braced himself in a similar attitude of exertion;—and his boat evidently gained upon the Nantucketer; Seth saw the increase of speed of his rival with dismay. The whale, too, was just rising ahead. The bubbles of his blowing, and of his efforts at rising, were beginning to ascend! It was a moment of intense anxiety. The rushing train, or vortex of water, told that he was near the surface. Both commanders encouraged their men anew by a single word; and then, as if by mutual consent, all was silent, except the long, measured, and vigorous stroke of the oars.

"For old England, my lads!" shouted the one.

"Remember old Nantucket, my boys!" was the war-cry of the other.

Both plied their oars with apparently equal skill;—but the hot Englishman lost his temper as the boat of Seth shot up again, head and head with him;—and he surged his foot so heavily upon the after oar, that it broke off short in the rowlock! The blade of the broken oar became entangled with the others on the same side, while the after oarsman lost his balance, and fell backward upon his leader.

"Way enough—peak your oars!" said Seth to his men. The oars bristled aspeak, after the fashion of the whale-fishermen. The harpooner immediately seized and balanced his weapon over his head, and planted himself firmly in the bow of the boat. At that instant the huge body of the whale rose above the surface; and Seth, with a single turn of his steering oar, brought the bow dead upon the monster, a few feet back of the fin. Simultaneously with the striking of the boat, the well-poised harpoon was launched deep into the flesh of the animal.

"Starn all!" shouted Seth.

"The boat was backed off in an instant; and the whale, feeling the sting of the barb, darted off like the wind! The well-coiled line flew through the groove of the bow-post with incomparable swiftness, and it presently began to smoke, and then to blaze, with the rapidity of the friction. Seth now took the bow with his lance, exchanging places with the harpooner, and quietly poured water upon the smoking groove, until it was cooled. The oars were again peaked, and the handles inserted in brackets fixed on the ceiling of the boat beneath the thwarts—the blades projecting over the water like wings; and the men, immovable, rested from their long, but successful pull:—and much need did they have of the relief, for a more arduous, or better-contested chase they had never experienced.

"The line in the tub was now well nigh run out; and the boat-steerer, with a thick buckskin mitten, or *nipper*, as it is called, for the protection of his hand, seized hold of the line, and, in a twinkling, caught a turn around the loggerhead, to enable the man at the tub oar to bend on another line.

"The rapidity of the animal's flight the while was inconceivable. The boat now ploughed deeply and laboriously, leaving banks of water on each side, as she parted the wave, that overtopped the men's heads, and effectually obscured the sight of every object on the surface. The swell of the closing water came after them in a heavy and angry rush. The second line was now allowed to run slowly from the loggerhead; and a drag, or plank about eighteen inches square, with a line proceeding from each corner, and meeting at a point like a pyramid, was fastened to it, and thrown over to deaden the speed of the whale. Another and another drag were added, until the animal, feeling the strong backward pull, began to relax his efforts;—and

presently he suddenly descended, though not to the full extent of the slackened line.

"It now became necessary to haul in the slack of the line, and to coil it away in the tub carefully; while the men pulled with their oars, to come up with the whale when he should rise to the surface. All things were soon ready again for the deadly attack.

"The ripple of the whale, as he ascended, was carefully marked; and when he again saw the light of day, a deep wound, close to the barbed harpoon, was instantly inflicted by the sharp lance of Seth. It was the death blow.

"Starn all!" was the cry once more,—and the boat was again quickly backed off by the oarsmen.

"The infuriated animal roared in agony, and lashed the ocean into foam. The blood gushed from his spout-holes, falling in torrents upon the men in the boat, and colouring the sea. The whale, in his last agony, is a fearful creature. He rose perpendicularly in the water, head downwards, and again writhed and lashed the sea with such force, that the people in the retreating boats, though ten miles distant, heard the thunder of the sound distinctly. The exertion was too violent to last long:—it was the signal of his dissolution. His life-blood ceased to flow, and he turned his belly to the sun! The *waif* of the Grampus floated triumphantly above the body of the slaughtered Leviathan of the deep—and the peril of the hardy crew was over."

Both these scenes are naturally and skillfully drawn, and here we should conclude our notice, but that the following biographical note may interest our readers. The writer, from many passages in the work, is evidently well skilled in the history of Nantucket:—

"Mary Morriel, the great-grandmother of Dr. Benjamin Franklin, was maidservant in the family of the Rev. Hugh Peters, one of the chaplains of Cromwell, who fled from England in the year 1662. Peter Folger, the first of the name that came to Nantucket, was passenger on board the same vessel, and became enamoured of the maid, who was a buxom, sensible lass, and won the heart of Peter by laughing at his sea-sickness, and betraying no fear of bilgewater. Peter admired the cheerful endurance of Mary Morriel so much upon the voyage, that he proffered his hand to the maid, and bargained for her with the greedy old hunk, her master, and counted out to him the enormous sum of twenty pounds sterling, all his worldly store, for the remaining term of her servitude. He forthwith married the lass, and apparently had no cause of repentance; for he always boasted afterwards of having 'made a good bargain.' The value and scarcity of money at Nantucket at the time, may be estimated from the fact, that when King Philip, as he was called, pursued an offending and fugitive Indian to Nantucket, in 1665, about three years after Peter Folger and his wife, Mary Morriel that was, had settled on the island, the Indian king consented to bury the hatchet, and let the offender go free, for the consideration of a present of wampum composed of a string of coins, in value nineteen shillings sterling, which was all that could be found in possession of the twenty original proprietors of the island, and Peter Folger to boot."

*Rotuli Litterarum Clausarum, &c.*—[The Close Rolls, preserved in the Tower of London.]

[Second Notice.]

In looking over this very curious volume we have sometimes felt as though we were reading a collection of family papers, rather than a royal correspondence, so various, so minute, and, in many instances, so singularly domestic are some of the precepts. "Eva, the

nurse, has complained to us," that her stipend of *twopence* per diem has been withheld for some time past,—the barons of the Exchequer are therefore directed to inquire into it, and pay to her the arrears. A falconer, with two boys, twelve hawks, and a horse, are sent into Wiltshire, and the sheriff is commanded to see that they have suitable board and lodging, and moreover, that the hawks be treated occasionally with poultry. The scarlet robe intended to be worn by the young King Henry, at Christmas-tide requires trimming, and therefore, with a laudable attention to economy, three skins and one half of ermine are ordered, together with one skin of gris, (probably the modern chinchilla,) "for our green robe," and another skin of gris "for the use of Richard, our brother;" and these haberdashery directions, together with several others, for four yards and a half, and six yards and a half, are addressed to the sheriffs of the proud and wealthy city of London. On more minute inspection of these precepts, however, we find that these apparently mean and contemptible minutiae are to be attributed rather to the simplicity of those early times than to aught of miserly feeling, since the royal wardrobe seems to have been of a most splendid character—satins, damask, and gold baudekin, absolutely dazzle our eyes, while the precepts respecting the royal jewels prove that our earlier monarchs need scarcely have envied the pomp of the Soldan.

But there are many precepts very interesting from the circumstances under which they were written. "*Teste me ipso apud Runimede*," is sufficient to excite attention to a precept, although it be of no greater importance than "that the chattels of Giles de Badesme be forthwith returned to him," or "that Matilda de Courtenay receive again the manor of Waddesdon, which is her dowry." Indeed we may remark, that the confederated barons seem to have been determined that John should put in instant requisition that portion at least of the great charter which pledges the sovereign "not to delay justice," since we find no fewer than thirty or forty precepts dated within two days after the signing, and every one directed to the restoration of forfeited rights, or inquiring into the justice of claims which had been brought before him. The entries for the three subsequent months afford a fair test of the general correctness of the contemporary historians, for, from the 24th of June we find John wandering about the southern parts of his kingdom in a way that proves, if he was not *incognito*, that he could have journeyed with nought of the pomp and state of a monarch in the thirteenth century. We find him at Odiham, at Winchester, at Devizes, at Marlborough, at Cirencester, at Wareham, at Bridgenorth, and, subsequently, wandering from one of these places to the other, until, at the beginning of September, he arrived at Dover. Matthew Paris states, that during these three months he was meditating plans of revenge, and many of these precepts confirm it, since there are several directed to the bailiffs of the various seaports, directing vessels (and in many instances "fast sailing ones" are particularly specified) to be prepared "for our trusty and well-beloved Galfred de Neville," or for others of his confidential servants, to go on some secret embassy. On his arrival at



Dover, whither the legate charged with a dispensation for the perfidious monarch, and sentence of excommunication against his high-minded barons, was bound, John seems to have thrown off the mask, and assumed a warlike attitude. He commands William Scissor to send "400 smaller quarrels, (a kind of large bolt used for the mangonels,) 100 larger, and two balista, of two feet, of the best." Precepts are also sent for coat armour and iron head pieces, and the various ports are directed forthwith to furnish their quota of vessels and men. In the midst of all these directions, the reckless character of the monarch is exhibited, in the urgency with which he directs, in another precept, "that a house shall be forthwith *built*, within our castle of Dover," for his huntsmen, their horses and dogs.

Few of the precepts however are calculated to awaken more interest than those relating to our maritime affairs—and to those of our readers who are not aware of the fact that John was a great patron of our navy, that to him the Cinque Ports owed their chartered privileges, and that to him, strange as it may appear, the first assertion of national sovereignty over the seas is due,† it will create surprise to find how anxiously attentive he seems to have been to everything relating to our maritime interests. From the following precept it has been supposed that to him the dock-yard at Portsmouth owes its origin:—

"The King to the Sheriff of Southampton.—We order you, without delay, by the view of lawful men, to cause our docks (*exclusas*) at Portsmouth to be enclosed by a good and strong wall, in such manner as our beloved and trusty William, Archdeacon of Taunton, shall tell you, for the preservation of our ships and galleys; and likewise cause penthouses to be made to the same walls, as the same Archdeacon will tell you, in which our ships' tackle may be safely kept; and use as much dispatch as you can, in order that the same may be completed this summer, lest, in the ensuing winter, our ships and galleys, and their rigging, should incur any damage by your default; and when we know the cost it shall be accounted to you." 14th John.

This William the Archdeacon, besides his office of superintendent of the dock-yard, seems to have had a general superintendence in maritime affairs, and there are many precepts addressed to him. From a memorandum on the back of one of the rolls, we find that the number of vessels belonging to the King about this time, and in actual service, was fifty-one. Of these, five were at London, five at Lynn, five at Sorham,‡ and five at Dunwich; from many entries in these rolls, we find that this unfortunate town was then a port of great importance: so also was Southampton. The vessels here mentioned were most probably armed galleys, since for the purposes of transporting either the King's stores, or soldiers, or household, the merchant vessels appear to have been pressed, with as little ceremony as the carts and wains of the farmer. In 1254 Richard Oisel was sent to all the eastern ports, as far as Lynn, to press all vessels capable of carrying sixteen horses, and to compel them to meet at Portsmouth, fully equipped, to transport the Queen and

Prince, and Earl Richard of Cornwall, to Gascoigny. The following precept has probably reference to some similar impression:—

"The mayor and aldermen, and constable of the Tower of London, are commanded to permit the vessel of Peter Colum, of Bourdeaux, which Galfrid Ernald brought to London, it being seized on the late occasion, when our lord King caused the ships to be seized for his use, to go free, forthwith." Sth Henry III.

There are many precepts directing the bailiffs or mayors of the various sea-port towns, to provide so many vessels, with their proper complement of men, for the use of the King, on occasion of his wars with the French King, and there is one particularly requiring "a good and sound ship for Adam de Stowell, to convey our mangonels and other warlike stores to Poitou."

"The King to the bailiffs of the port at Portsmouth.—We command that ye cause Reginald de Bailly, Adam de Stowell, and William Britten, to have one ship to carry their twelve horses into Poitou, which many of ours are not able to carry, and it shall be accounted to you at the Exchequer." 14th John.

It has been supposed, from similar precepts, that the general size of vessels at this period was singularly small. From the accounts which the historians of the Crusades have transmitted to us, we find that many vessels were of immense size; the remark in the precept refers to the *form* of the vessel, which, if intended for the conveyance of horses, (and we believe wine was conveyed in the same manner,) was flat bottomed, with ports in its sides, from whence bridges were let down, to facilitate entrance or egress. These vessels are termed by Villehardouin "Huissiers," from "*huis*," the old French for door. Joinville minutely describes this proceeding—"et fut ouverte la porte de la nef, pour faire entrer nos chevaux. Et quand tous furent entrez, la porte fut reclose et estoupée, ainsi comme l'on voudroit faire un tonnel de vin; parceque quand la nef est en la grant mer, toute la porte est en eau." From Vinesauf, who accompanied Cœur de Lion to the Holy Land, we learn that various kinds of vessels were at this period in use. The largest were "Dromonds," a name familiar to the readers of our metrical romances—these were flat-bottomed, square built, "and had a triple spread of sails;" there were next armed galleys, mostly furnished with two tier of oars, but having also sails, and sometimes armed with a beam of wood projecting from the head, and shod with iron, termed a spur. Of this class the greater number of vessels mentioned in these rolls certainly were. There was another class, which were the "*huissiers*," termed by him simply transports, and also a shorter and lighter galley, which he terms "*galleon*." Vinesauf dwells most eloquently on the splendid show which King Richard's armament displayed when it bore into the bay of Messina, and describes the dazzling brilliancy of the prows, adorned with painting and gilding. We could not but remember his description when we read the precept addressed to William Scissor, to send "a certain fast-sailing galley belonging to the Lord King, and also that one which is adorned with gold." 17th John. Indeed such was the splendour displayed in the royal galleys of this period, that the brilliant

description which Marie of France gives in her graceful lay of Gusemar, of the self-impelled bark, with its prow of ivory and gold, and its sail of purple sendall, must scarcely have seemed extravagant to her readers.

From a series of precepts dated at the commencement of Henry the Third's reign, we find that the royal forests furnished all the timber for the dock-yard at Portsmouth. The sheriff of Southampton is directed to obtain "from the forest bailiwick, in the custody of Engelard de Cygoigny, five hundred bundles or rafts of oak planks, seven feet in length, and five in breadth."‡ There is another precept for three hundred from the forest of Porchester, three hundred from the New Forest; and several others are addressed to the sheriffs of Wilts, Sussex, and Dorset, for the same or larger quantities; in all these the clause is inserted, "and that this be done with all carefulness, without injury to our forests."

The precepts relating to merchant vessels afford a pleasing evidence how laudably the highest authorities in the state watched over the interests of our infant commerce. Among the precepts signed by John, the day after granting the charter, is one "to inquire, by tried men of Winchester, whether the wines of Auxerre, which were seized at Winchester, belong to the merchants of Rouen or the merchants of London." In the reign of Henry similar precepts meet us on every page, and corroborate the opinion which some historians have expressed, of the great talents of Hubert de Burgh, the real head of the government. "The bailiff of the port of Sandwich is commanded, that if Conrad de Bolle, of Bourdeaux, will give security that his ship, freighted with the wines of Peter Coifer, of Bourdeaux, now arrested in that port, will not take it *elsewhere except to some other port in England*, that is to say, London, Lynn, or Yarmouth, then ye shall permit the said Conrad to carry away his vessel from your port." 8th Henry III. "In the aforesaid manner it was written concerning the vessel of Edward the fisherman," &c. Now, in this instance, the Bourdeaux merchant probably feared that the master of the vessel might sell the wines for his own benefit at some distant port, and therefore caused the ship to be stopped in the port of Sandwich. There is also a curious precept, too long to be inserted here, respecting the Spanish merchants who had come to the great Winchester fair, and had been taken into custody on the notion (it would appear) that they were subjects or emissaries of the French King. The keepers of the market, and the bailiff of Southampton, are therefore directed "instantly to set those merchants at liberty, who in nothing owe allegiance to the King of France," and to take especial care of their goods and chattels, and afford them safe conduct from thence. This is followed by a long list of their names, the places from whence they came, and, in some instances, the names of their fathers.

We must close, for the present, our notice of this very curious volume. We had, however, almost forgotten to state, that from several entries it appears that the wages of ordinary seamen were 3d. per diem; this, multiplied by fifteen, to bring it to the pre-

† The breadth most probably refers to the *bundle*, not to the planks, *celas* is the word used here, and on the authority of Ducange it is translated bundle.

† By a law published at Hastings, in 1200, he commanded that all foreign vessels should strike their topsails to his flag, on pain of capture and confiscation."—Selden, quoted by Lingard.

‡ Most probably Shoreham.

sent standard, will give a very fair rate of remuneration; the steersman had 7d. per diem.

#### OUR LIBRARY TABLE.

'*The Geognosy of the Island of St. Helena*, by R. F. Seale, E.I.C. Civil Service.—This is a work, which perhaps ought rather to be noticed under the head Fine Arts, as its chief, we may say its entire merit consists in a series of very beautiful lithographic plates, representing views, sections, and plans of the Island of St. Helena, and putting us in possession of most, if not all, its important geological characters. The letterpress is very brief, and scarcely serves to connect the plates together; however, they are so well expressed, as scarcely to stand in need of explanation.

'*The Literary Life and Miscellanies of John Galt*, 3 vols.—In the preface to this work, Mr. Galt observes, "The dramatic pieces are the productions of younger years, with the exception of the *Masque*, which was composed in bed, after having suffered ten aggravations of my anomalous affliction. It should be received with indulgence, and ought not to be regarded as within the pale of customary criticism." We are willing to extend this indulgence to the whole work. It is impossible to hear of the bodily afflictions of Mr. Galt, without admiring the unbroken energy of his spirit. His *Literary Life*, though it consists of little else than a criticism on his works, may be read with some interest, by all who are curious in such matters: we cannot however but regret that he did not exercise a somewhat severer judgment, when hunting over his papers for the two volumes of *Miscellanies* which follow.

'*Life and Medical Opinions of John Armstrong, M.D.*: with an *Inquiry*, &c. by Dr. Boott, Vol. II.—This volume contains nobody's life, and every body's opinion, about plague, fever, and all other malarious diseases. Dr. Boott had every right to publish such a volume, but not under such a title: it has no more to do with Dr. Armstrong than it has with Russell, or Bancroft, or Lenix, or Lancise, or a dozen others who had written on the subject, and of whose works the present is a sort of digest. We do not condemn the volume, for it bears marks of considerable care and labour in the composition; neither do we recommend it, for it is rather lengthy, and very inconclusive.

'*Atkinson's Medical Bibliography*.'—This work has lain for some time on our table, for the simple reason, that we scarcely knew what to say of it. It is too good to be utterly condemned, and too bad to obtain more than very qualified praise; in one sentence we find sound information and shrewd common sense, in the next a contemptible quibble or an obscene jest. But really it is hard to criticize the work seriously, when we meet in *limine* a sort of hieroglyphical pun as a dedication, and in the preface such an apology as the following, for what the author terms "the frolics and gambols of a native folly." "I pray you, gentlest of all gentle readers, to forgive me; and if there unfortunately be a magazine of fulminating powder, in the criticizing cell of your os petrosus, don't use a percussion lock or hair trigger; don't let it burst suddenly upon me; for I am of a nervous, quiet, and peaceable, though ridiculous nature, and far advanced in life. And you will have no credit in killing so harmless a creature." We cannot go on after this appeal, yet we must express our regret that Mr. Atkinson has not tempered his humour with a little more judgment. His work really contains valuable observations on many points connected with medical and surgical practice, of which we would particularize those on blood-letting, and the reproduction of bone, but mixed up with so much absurdity and affectation of

wit, as too often to remind us of the grains of wheat in the bushels of chaff. To make our peace we will conclude, by extracting one of Mr. Atkinson's cases which conveys a hint that ought by no means to be lost sight of.—"I was once called into the street to an itinerant, who avowed that he had a wolf in his belly, which he exhibited to the numerous sympathizing spectators, by various visible outward signs and inward contortions.—The first appearance of my infallible remedy, a tea-kettle full of boiling water addressed to his naked belly, induced him and the wolf to take off at full speed in a moment.—Reader, as far as I recollect, this was one of my best cures."

'*Meteorological Register*, by Lieut. Becher, R.N.—This strikes us as the most accurate, the most intelligible, and the easiest kept form for registering the variations of the weather, that has come within our notice. Lieut. Becher has published the observations made for the year 1833, at the Greenwich observatory, and a skeleton form for the observations of the present year, which we strongly recommend to any of our friends, who may keep registers, and be inclined to make them most easily available—to those who are engaged in deducing from such sources general principles to be hereafter added to the science. A number of registers kept in this manner, at different places, would in a very few years, supply data of the highest importance.

'*Tutti Frutti*, by the Author of 'The Tour of a German Prince'—Having reviewed this work in the original, we are not required to do more than announce its translation, and acknowledge the compliment to ourselves, offered in the preface.

'*Sacred Classics*, Vol. IX. *Dr. Watts's Poems*.'—The success which has rewarded the spirit and enterprise of the publishers of this excellent series, has only stimulated them to fresh exertions. Not content with the general superintendence of men every way so well qualified as the Rev. R. Cattermole, and the Rev. H. Stebbing, we find particular volumes introduced by Essays from other able writers: last month Butler's Analogy had a memoir prefixed by the Rev. Dr. Croly; Watts's Poems, now before us, has one by Dr. Southey; and Cave's Primitive Christianity, to be published next month, is announced with an introductory essay by the Rev. W. Trollope. And yet each volume neatly and even beautifully printed on good paper and tastily bound, is sold for 3s. 6d.

'*Introductory Anatomical Lecture*, by Thomas King, M.D.—This Lecture, delivered at the re-opening of the school founded by the late Joshua Brookes, contains an assemblage of valuable facts, scientifically arranged and philosophically viewed, as bearing on the general study of organization. We regret that it is not more in accordance with the principles of anatomical instruction, which we endeavoured to lay down in our review of M. Broc's '*Traité complet d'Anatomie descriptive*,' [see *Athenæum*, No. 345,] but, to be sure, this may in some measure be accounted for, by the fact, that the lecture was delivered before the article was written. In other respects, we can safely commend it; it shows both information and reflection.

'*An Inquiry into the nature of Sleep and Death*, by A. P. W. Philip, M.D. &c.—This is a republication of Doctor Wilson Philip's papers, which have already appeared in the '*Philosophical Transactions*': as such, we shall not review it at any length. Dr. Philip has been all his life a man of one idea, and that idea has now, we believe, just one convert, and that is Doctor Philip himself. The idea, as we suppose, every one knows, is, that the nervous influence is nothing but galvanism, or, as the Doctor terms it, voltaic electricity. His proof rested on the asserted facts that the power of digesting is

conferred on the stomach by the pneumo-gastric nerves, and that if these nerves be divided, the power may be continued by passing down a stream of galvanism. Hence he inferred the identity of galvanism and nervous influence. His facts have since been more than once denied, on very competent authority, both in this country and abroad, but, were they even admitted to the fullest extent, they no more prove the nervous influence to be galvanism than they prove galvanism to be the prick of a pin, inasmuch as we know that both of these latter applied to the cut end of a nerve of motion, will produce the same effect, viz. the contraction of the muscle to which that nerve is distributed. It is very true that a nerve will act as a conductor to galvanism, and so will any wet string; but that the nervous influence is something residing in the nerve itself, and not a galvanic or any other current sent from the brain, is clearly shown by the fact, that a nerve remains sensible to the effects of ordinary stimuli for days after it has been divided, and so its connexion with the brain entirely cut off.

'*Chiron on the Sabbath*.'—The author very ably points out the difference between the Jewish and the Christian Sabbath, which he thinks have been confounded in recent discussions: he deems that an enforced, Pharisaical observance of the seventh day, would have an injurious effect on religion, by inducing Christians, like the Jews of old, to substitute the form for the substance; and he says, as is universally acknowledged, that no command for the observance of the Sabbath is to be found in the New Testament, whence he argues, that legislation on the subject would be an infringement of "the liberty with which Christ has made us free." Without offering any opinion on the matter of the controversy, we bear willing testimony to the temper and ability eminently displayed by the author, and recommend his work as deserving attentive consideration.

'*Trout and Salmon Fishing in Wales*, by G. A. Hansard.—It may be all very well for a person who wants to catch trout, to know that he is to tie a cock's hackle and dub it (if that be the word) with badger's down, but this is nothing to write a volume about: besides, we never knew a fisherman worth a pin, who had learned his art out of a book. It is all very true, that Isaac Walton wrote very pleasantly about fishing, and Peter Camper wrote a very instructive and entertaining little essay, upon an old shoe; but it is not every one who can write about fishing and old shoes.

'*Moral Instruction, addressed to the Working Classes*. Part I.—A very useful little work, which, we hope, will obtain extensive circulation;—it is better calculated for the diffusion of really useful knowledge, than any of the treatises that have come out under that name.

'*Spain Yesterday and To-day*.'—A well compiled little volume, written in a sober and considerate spirit, and likely we think to interest young people. The following account of the Merinos and their migrations, may be taken as a pleasant specimen.—"The name of *merino*, which with us marks a particular kind of sheep, signifies in the language of the country, wandering, ambulatory; and is highly descriptive of their habits. They do not always remain in the same farm, or the same province; but they travel from one to another. \* \* \* Towards the beginning of May, nearly five millions of sheep leave the plains of Estremadura, Andalusia, Old and New Castille, and Leon; and are conducted by the shepherds to the mountains of the two Castilles, those of Biscay, Navarre, and even Arragon. On these more elevated spots, they find a fresher herbage, less dried up by the burning sun; which in summer destroys all verdure in the plains. The high ground near



Segovia is very much frequented by the sheep.

• • • The details of their march, are very curious. The rich proprietors, that is to say, those who possess the greatest number of sheep, have formed themselves into a company called the Mesta: this association being necessarily a monopoly, it is difficult to alter any of its laws. It would have been impossible for a few proprietors with small flocks to have undertaken these yearly peregrinations:—this society was formed to do away this inconvenience; and under the superintendence of persons chosen for the purpose, the flocks are led to the uncultivated lands and mountains of Spain. The Mesta employ between forty and fifty thousand shepherds, who lead a wandering and almost savage life, who never cultivate the ground and rarely marry; their knowledge being confined wholly to sheep, and in that department they are very skilful. • • • The flocks of the Mesta are divided into smaller troops of ten thousand sheep each; at the head of which is a mayoral, or chief-shepherd, to direct them, fifty inferior shepherds, and the same number of dogs, who keep watch over the sheep. The chief-shepherd is on horseback, and has a salary of about sixty pounds English. The wages of the inferior shepherds vary according to their skill and usefulness. The best paid have about thirty shillings a month; and the worst, not more than eight; but to these last two pounds of bread a day are given. Every shepherd may have a certain number of sheep and goats of his own; but their wool belongs to the proprietor of the flock. The shepherd has only the milk, the flesh and the young ones they produce. • • • Abundant supplies of salt are provided: the sheep eat as much of it as they like. The annual consumption for a thousand animals, is two thousand five hundred pounds.—The Mesta is composed of proprietors possessing, some four, and others sixty thousand sheep. • • • The march of these large flocks is regulated by particular laws, derived from immemorial custom. The sheep have a right of pasturage in all those waste lands which are reserved for that purpose, paying a fixed price to the proprietors, beyond which they can exact nothing. They cannot enter upon cultivated grounds; but the owners are obliged to reserve them a passage, forty-five fathoms wide. The sheep travel two leagues a day in their own pastures; but they go six, when they pass through arable lands. Their emigrations extend to a hundred and twenty, and a hundred and fifty leagues.—The Mesta has its particular laws, and a tribunal called the 'Honourable Council of the Mesta.' It is composed of four judges; and one of the members of the Council of Castille is their president."

'Pritchard's Natural History of Animalcules.'—Mr. Pritchard has exhibited much skill and unwearied assiduity in examining the structure, and observing the habits of these 'atoms of the animal kingdom.' The pains which he has taken in improving the microscopes, with which his observations were made, have enabled him to fill what has hitherto been nearly a vacuum in Natural History, and afford us both drawings and descriptions of animals, not exceeding the 24,000th part of an inch in linear dimensions. He has confirmed several of the most interesting remarks of Ehrenberg and Müller, touching their mode of nutrition, reproduction, growth, &c. and has added new ones of his own, tending still further to develop their manners, habits, and the strange transformations undergone by some of the species; so that, on the whole, the work is both creditable to the industry and research of the author, and valuable as affording the first comprehensive monograph of the Infusory tribes, that has appeared in the English language.

## ORIGINAL PAPERS

## SKETCHES OF SOCIETY IN THE UNITED STATES OF NORTH AMERICA.

[A series of Papers under this title has lately appeared in the *Morgenblatt*, and excited some attention in Germany. They are professedly written by a German lady, and are the result of four years observation, ending with 1833. The writer has evidently taken Mrs. Trollope as a model, but wants her truth and talent; for, much as the latter delighted in exaggeration and caricature, she had generally some warrant for her assertions—some individual instance to justify what she gave as national characteristics; and her pleasant extravaganzas ought to have given no more pain to the Americans than their own sketches of the Kentuckians and Down-Easters to the worthy people of the States so ridiculed. But the German lady often deals in downright palpable falsehoods. We hear that a translation of these sketches is contemplated. As a separate publication such a work will not succeed in England. The extracts which we intend to give will be quite as much as the subject will bear. The Americans, however, may now see that such libels do not all arise from English jealousy. Englishmen, indeed, laugh on such occasions, and Americans should do the same.]

## Arrival at New York.

THE many stupendous things achieved within so short a period by this youthful country, have produced even in intelligent persons an admiration, which, in the multitude, is frequently heightened to enthusiasm; so that the ideas of the superiority of the New World, appear but too frequently to be nothing more than deep-rooted prejudice. With this prejudice the naked representation of habits and manners, so totally different from ours, stands in harsh contrast; and those who are possessed with it, conceive that in such a representation, the likeness must be exceedingly distorted. Precisely the same impression is made upon the Americans, by the description of our manners and customs, and to them the European is a caricature. For the accuracy of the following statements, I appeal to every one who has passed any time in the United States, particularly in New York, their real capital, which gives the tone to all their other cities; and they will, I have no doubt, even recognize many of the persons whom I shall delineate. • • •

When the ship touched the wharf of New York, every one felt as it were new born, as though animated with youthful vigour; every one saluted from the depths of his heart the hospitable land in which he hoped to be prosperous and happy. The dangerous and fatiguing voyage was past; all difficulties were overcome; we had reached the goal; henceforward all would be liberty, equality, fraternal love, and enjoyment. No sooner was the little bridge thrown across for landing, than the passengers, great and small, male and female thronged to it, each striving to be the first to kiss the blessed shore. I must confess that I experienced these feelings in common with the rest; but, I had determined not to be hurried away by first emotions, but to observe, and for this purpose I had stationed myself on the highest point of the deck.

Those who had been in the greatest haste, who were the first to leap on shore, and were on the point of throwing themselves upon the ground and pressing their lips to it, suddenly stood stock still; and so did all those who followed them. All pursed up their mouths and held their noses; and the singular smile that played upon their features partly expressed the feeling of disgust which the excessive filth of the quay could not but excite, and partly scorn for their own precipitate rapture. My illusions were a good deal deranged by this sight; but I was determined to find everything good and right and beautiful, and therefore was at no loss for excuses for any thing that was offensive. A negro loaded his truck with our baggage, and hurrying away from the filthy wharf, we paused at the first row of houses along the water to take breath.

After we had proceeded some hundred paces, we came to a wide magnificent street, the cele-

brated Broadway, justly accounted the finest in all America. Private equipages, hackney-coaches, carts, rattled along the carriage-way; while the broad foot-pavements before the elegant shops, were thronged with pedestrians. My husband addressed one of them, and inquired for a good American hotel. We had the name of a French house, but were desirous of making ourselves acquainted as speedily as possible with the national manners—a thing not very easily done. The gentleman stopped, smiled, and instead of answering the question, asked whence we came, what was our business, and so forth; and when we, interrupting him, repeated our inquiry, he answered, "I don't know," and away he went. We made a second and a third essay with no better success. At length we met a Quaker family, and I determined to apply to these *Friends*, as they style themselves. But I fared no better with them than the others, excepting that the Quaker *thou'd* me, and called me *Friend*. When he had satisfied his curiosity, I was obliged to content myself with his surly "I don't know," with which he pursued his way. We had no course left but to go to the French house, with the name of which we had been furnished—the *Hôtel de Commerce*; but that was no easy matter, for nobody could or would direct us to it. "I don't know," or "I can't tell," was the only answer we could get: even from our black carrier not another word could be extracted, as he probably wished to increase his pay in a legal manner, by lengthening his journey. Thus did we wander, the whole family together, after the truck, up one street and down another, till we chanced to hear a man speaking French. Before we could finish our question, he invited us in; it was the landlord himself, and to our great joy, we found ourselves in the *Hôtel de Commerce*. Under such circumstances, we could not be particular about price; still my husband did not omit to settle that point before-hand, a precaution which, in America, ought never to be neglected. It was agreed, that for board (without drink) and lodging we should pay one dollar a day per head, without distinction of age; and we were then conducted up handsomely carpeted stairs, to a spacious apartment, also covered with a magnificent carpet. It was soon evident that carpets constituted the principal luxury. • • •

No sooner had we retired to rest, and closed our weary eyes, than we were roused by a fresh alarm. Gleaner opened the window. Gracious heaven! what a tumult! fire-engines, with their endless water-pipes, drawn by hundreds of sturdy Americans—the lights of numberless torches—the clang of trumpets—the shouts of people—all failed to waken a creature in the house; the neighbours, also, were quiet; so we, too, would have gone to sleep again, but, on opening the windows, such a host of gnats, three times as large as those of Europe, had penetrated into the room, that we could scarcely breathe. They tormented us horribly, and next morning we were all lamentably stung. The sufferings to which we were thus exposed, rendered us indifferent to what was passing abroad; so that in this first painful night we could hear a third alarm of fire with truly American phlegm, without being tempted to open the window again. On the other hand, we waited impatiently for the first dawn of light, in hopes that our nocturnal persecutors would then allow us some rest. This they actually did, probably needing it themselves, for they must have been weary with the work which they had done upon us. • • •

We went down to the breakfast-room, where we found the long table covered with a variety of hot and cold meats and fish, and surrounded by about thirty guests. Each helped himself to what stood before him. One began with salad, then eggs, and then he took a slice of roast beef, washing it down with coffee, and following that up with cold fish; while his neighbour reversed

the order. Before we could recover from the astonishment, everything in the shape of eatables was consumed. So much the more was I surprised to hear calls from all sides for forks, the use of which I could not divine; as I had already seen that the American has no need of them for eating, but uses his knife alone, with wonderful dexterity. A waiter brought several plates full of forks, and set them in the middle of the table. The gentlemen—what signification these genuine republicans attach to this term, I really do not yet know—immediately fell upon the forks; each secured one, rose, and repaired to some part of the room where he could support his feet against the wall. Some even put their legs upon the table, and in this posture began at their ease to pick their teeth and pare their nails. When this operation was finished, each drew from his waistcoat pocket a bit of tobacco prepared for chewing, shoved it with his finger high up beneath the cheek, and hurried away to business.

Our host now came to us. "If," said he, "you would not rise from table hungry, you must fall to immediately. I have frequently the most distinguished gentlemen in the country, with their whole families at my table, but the meal never lasts longer than ten minutes. But, let me ask," proceeded our comforter, "have you not slept with your windows open?" I was just bursting forth into bitter complaints of the past night, when the landlord resumed with a smile: "It is a pity that the mosquitoes should have used you so ill the very first night; but they will let you alone the sooner; you cannot get rid of the persecution of these insects till they have had the last drop of European blood out of you. In two years, not a mosquito will touch you any more than a native American." "Aha!" cried Gleaner, rather peevishly, "so then, a foreigner must part with everything, even with his blood!"—"Just so," replied our host, dryly, and a foreboding shudder came over me.

#### Broadway, New York.

Broadway, the principal street in New York, is one of the noblest in the world. It is always thronged with carriages—but the equipages are not so brilliant as the European; the coachmen and footmen are invariably blacks, and the whole concern is merely hired: for not a creature has carriage and horses of his own, excepting those who keep them to let out on hire. The liveliest part of this street is the middle. The beginning of it is formed by the neat but not spacious dwellings of the oldest wealthy families. Those who have enriched themselves in later times, and these are almost exclusively native Americans, were therefore obliged to build their magnificent habitations in the third mile of the street. Here they stand, at first intermixed with wretched houses, then with sheds and huts, and, finally, quite detached, and further apart, scattered among heaps of rubbish, on vacant spots that have never been levelled. A mile in advance are the streets to be occupied by future generations, scarcely indicated on the wild, uneven, rocky soil, upon which here and there a crippled forest-tree owes its existence to the victory of indolence over the love of gain.

The shops and the throng of people next claim our attention. The Parisians, it is well known, are masters in the art of tastefully decorating their *magazines*, as they pompously style the most petty shops—of setting off their goods to the best advantage, and displaying them in the most striking and attractive manner: in this accomplishment, the people of New York are not a whit behind them; and when you see the troops of dressy ladies and officious gentlemen parading the streets and pouring into the shops, you have not the least doubt that a great deal of business must be done; but I was soon convinced of the contrary. All the shops which I entered were full of ladies; the master, as well as the shopmen, was busily engaged in taking down parcels

of goods, opening, and tying them up again. Each lady wished to see everything, to learn the price of everything, when it arrived, by what ship, from what place, and the like. It is amusing to see the fair querists tumbling over the silks and ribands with their delicate hands, unrolling everything, asking a thousand questions whilst examining the quality; at last laying the stuffs in folds, the ribands in bows, forming the most elegant draperies, nay, extemporizing whole tableaux with astonishing celerity. When this is over, they leave the shop, promising to call again, and go into the next to repeat the same game, which is kept up from eight in the morning till two in the afternoon. At that hour every body goes to dinner; they eat much and quick, then rest for an hour, and by half past four the Broadway is again in full bloom. People now go into company. Each company is an Exchange where the daily price and state of all commodities is discussed. About this time the shops are visited by people from the neighbouring country, who frequently bring them a little custom. About eleven the exhausted shopkeepers muster their remaining strength to clear away and to shut up. Is it any wonder that every second shop window exhibits a notice in large letters: "This shop to be let?"

In spite of the good example, I could not help buying, whenever I went into a shop, some trifle or other, for which, of course, as a foreigner, I was obliged to pay double price; but the lesson which I learned at the same time, amply indemnified me. For the first thing I bought I was asked one dollar and fifty cents. I laid a bank note of two dollars on the counter. The shopkeeper immediately put it into his till, and went to attend to something else. When I reminded him that he had not given me the change, he coolly asked whether I was sure that I had paid him. I was speechless at this impudence, when a gentleman interfered, and said with a French accent, "The lady has paid; for I saw her." Upon this the shopkeeper, without betraying the least embarrassment, gave me back twenty cents; I told him that he ought to have given me fifty. He reckoned for some time, and then handed me six more cents. Hoping to shame him out of it, I requested him to lend me the slate, and wrote down for him the little account; he immediately rubbed out what I had written, made figures for a couple of minutes, and gave me a few more cents, saying, "Now it is quite right." It was not right by a great deal; but, being disgusted, I turned away, made an obeisance of acknowledgment to my unknown protector, and was preparing to leave the shop, when he addressed me. "I see," said he, in French, "that you are a stranger. Permit me to inform you, that in this country a person never pays even the smallest trifle, without taking a bill and receipt in one hand, while he pays the money with the other; and even then it is highly advisable to have at least one witness to the transaction. Whoever has no time to lose provides himself with change, so that he can pay the exact sum; for it is a principle with the people here to make a profit by everything, and of course by giving change." I thanked him for the hint.

The pedestrians in the Broadway confine their perambulations to its west side; it is not the fashion, and it would be considered vulgar, to walk on the other. Still the carriage-way is crossed here and there by broad stripes, paved with large flag stones, like the foot pavement, to keep up the communication. In crossing these stripes, the drivers of carriages are expected to be very cautious. The most urgent business would not induce an American to shorten his way by crossing the street at any other place, that, should he suffer any injury from a carriage, he may have a right to claim compensation from the owner. The precipitate crossing of the

street, therefore, indicates the foreigner. Independently of this voluntary regulation of street police, the stranger, on his part, immediately discovers the genuine American among the streaming masses. A long, pale face, that appears to be stuffed out on one side by a quid of tobacco; lips embrowned by the same herb, deep-seated, large, light, gray eyes; a thoughtful brow, furrowed by the incessant arithmetical exertions of the brain; a decent, but negligent dress. Such is the picture of the native American. Another infallible indication is the following: whenever and wherever two Americans are conversing together, whether in the counting-house, or in the street, whether sober or intoxicated, whether sitting or walking, whether at meeting or parting, whether at the tavern or at church, at the theatre or at market, at the coffee-house or at home, in short, on every occasion, by water and by land, by day and by night, in every town, village, and hamlet throughout the Union, you may be sure, before a minute has elapsed, to hear the watchword *dollar*, the only object of their thoughts, the only god of their adoration.

The American, when sitting, may be distinguished at the slightest glance from the native of any other country in the world. If you see a pair of legs stuck up against a window, they belong to some American dandy, who sits rocking himself upon his chair, smoking a cigar or chewing tobacco, and is employed, to a certainty, in trimming his nails with a penknife. If you pass coffee-houses, hotels, pastry-cooks, taverns, and such like places, the street is full of chairs on which loll human bodies, while the legs belonging to them are shored against the wall, or against the pillars that support the awning, spread over the whole breadth of the pavement in front of houses of that kind. From the windows beneath the awning dangle as many boots and shoes as can find room at them. Such feet as cannot here find a point of support, usurp the back of a chair that is already occupied, and completely bar the way. At such places the tobacco-juice is squirted about, like a fire of rockets.

Among the fair sex may be seen many extremely interesting, but mostly pale faces. The stature is noble, the contours charming; but a fine bosom, and the fresh colours of youth and health are universally wanting. The costume is Parisian, but highly exaggerated, and the most amiable creatures run about like maniacs. In their toilette they are extremely economical. At the end of April the fashions are fixed for the year. Every one then procures a dress and a dress bonnet, in the form of which only regard is paid to the fashion, and which is in general made of some cheap stuff. The low prices result from the bad quality of the foreign goods, made up expressly for this market; and hence, rich and poor, white and black, are all dressed alike. You see nothing but *elegant* people; and as in both sexes one imitates another, and all have the greatest resemblance to each other in character, it may be asserted with truth, that whoever has seen and heard one American, has seen and heard all.

#### OUR WEEKLY GOSSIP ON LITERATURE AND ART.

THERE is little novelty in the literary world, either in performance or promise; even our foreign resources, on which we are accustomed to rely at this season, have not been very abundant. In looking over the German journals, to see what hopes there were for the future, we have stumbled on a Paris letter, which gives a brief notice of proceedings in that city. The following is an extract:—

Neither the St. Simonians nor the *Novvelle Eglise Française* are now thought or talked of. Father Enfantin, and the few disciples who

adhered to him, are seeking their fortunes in Egypt; while the other St. Simonians have returned into society, some of them after the sacrifice of considerable property; and, as many of them are men of talents, they are striving to employ those talents in a way more beneficial to their fellow-citizens. Of the two founders of the so-called New French Church, Abbé Châtel and Abbé Auzou, nothing is now heard: the church of the one, as well as of the other, stands empty, or is appropriated to other purposes; for both have lost their influence, and will soon be forgotten. On the other hand, a much greater man, or at least a much greater writer, has arisen in the person of the Abbé de la Mennais, against whom at the present moment interdicts are issued, and whose 'Words of a Believer' are printed by thousands of copies, and read by hundreds of thousands of people. Who would have expected such stinging 'words' from a Catholic priest: from an ecclesiastic who not long since won the favour of the Pope, and returned, as it was supposed, a zealous adherent to his Holiness and the Church of Rome?

Silvio Pellico is another hero of the day in the French capital. People are not yet tired of reading his '*Prigioni*;' and the younger class, in particular, take deep interest in the sufferings of this unfortunate Italian and his companions, especially Count Maroncelli. This interest is likely soon to be still further increased by a narrative which another fellow-sufferer of Pellico's, Andrienne, a Frenchman, is preparing to publish. It will be written in a very different tone from 'Pellico's Confessions;' not that Andrienne possesses less christian resignation; but indignation will be less reservedly expressed in his work, and he will touch upon many things which Pellico has passed over in silence. Maroncelli is now in North America. He has married an Italian singer, and went out lately to conduct the orchestra of the Italian Opera at New York—a singular contrast with his terrible imprisonment in the fortress of Spielberg.

Art has been rather more active of late than literature; and we shall take an early opportunity of reporting on its progress. As to Science, the societies are all closed, and it has gone to Edinburgh. We this day give an account of the proceedings at that city up to Tuesday night; and we hope next week to be even more full and satisfactory in our report.

We learn from Liverpool that the Corporation have done a generous thing for the widow of Austin, the water-colour painter, whose death we announced last July (No. 352), by voting her a present of 100*l*. Of the tabernacle, or temple, or whatever it is to be called, in which the statue of Huskisson is to be placed in the cemetery, our correspondent says, "it is more frightful than you can imagine. I cannot conceive how the statue is to be seen at all, as it is so small that you can hardly get to a proper distance from it."

#### FOURTH MEETING OF THE BRITISH ASSOCIATION FOR THE PROMOTION OF SCIENCE.

[From our own Correspondent.]

##### THE GATHERING.

As we advanced northward from London, the symptoms of preparation for an important meeting forced themselves on our attention. At every stage places were eagerly sought by numbers, more than sufficient to load a dozen coaches; and when we reached York, we found that there were more than twenty persons in that city who had got so far, but were unable to advance, because more adventurous, or more prudent, travellers had secured places for the entire distance. At Newcastle the hotels were so crowded that it was scarcely possible to get beds; and the seats on the coaches were the subjects of fierce strife. We entered Scotland over the Cheviot

hills. Their appearance attracted the notice of all; and it was evident that our fellow-travellers were members of the Association, full of their respective subjects, eager to impart and receive information. Two geologists engaged in a spirited controversy respecting the red sand-stone formation, of which these hills appear to be composed; some broken greenstone by the side of the road led to a dissertation on dykes, and the darkness of its colour having suggested the remembrance of basalt, all the disputable questions of geology were brought at once into battle. A mathematician was at the same time detailing a new method of ascertaining heights by the barometer; while two determined statisticians were cross-examining the guard and coachman respecting the population, productions, average duration of life, and general character of the borderers and borders. Science destroyed romance—the field of Chevy Chase scarce elicited a remark—the cross marking the spot where Percy fell was observed by one of the geologists to belong to the secondary formation; the mathematician declared that it had swerved from its perpendicular; and the statisticians began a dissertation on the comparative carnage of ancient and modern warfare. Near this memorable spot we saw a singular instance of perverted taste: a murderer had been gibbeted some years ago, and his body having fallen to pieces, the proprietor of the estate suspended a wooden figure in its place, as an ornament to the prospect, and a terror to evil-doers. The Abbey of Jedburgh was one of the first objects that attracted attention after we had crossed the border; but that, as well as Melrose and Abbotsford, of which we obtained good passing views, have been frequently described. When we reached Edinburgh, we found that the dinner to Earl Grey divided public attention with the meetings of the Association. Workmen were engaged in erecting a wooden building, which they were pleased to call a Pavilion, on the top of the Calton Hill, for the reception of the two thousand guests who intend to receive the late minister. This was rather a tantalizing sight to the members of the Association, for the money subscribed to give them a public dinner was lodged in one of the banks which recently failed. The arrangements made for our reception were admirable: all the public institutions, libraries, exhibitions, and news-rooms were thrown open to us; invitations in blank were left by many for those who were unprovided with letters of introduction; and very few of the members have been permitted to go into hired lodgings. The President of the meeting is Sir T. Brisbane; the Vice-Presidents are Sir David Brewster and the Rev. Dr. Robinson, Astronomer Royal of Armagh; J. Robison, Sec. R.S.E. and Professor Forbes, act as Secretaries. The Royal Institution and the Library of the University are thrown open as reception rooms; and the class rooms of the University are appropriated to the Sections. The following are the Sections into which the business is divided:—1. Mathematics and Physics; 2. Chemistry and Mineralogy; 3. Geography and Geology; 4. Anatomy and Medicine; 5. Zoology and Botany; and 6. Statistics.

##### Monday.

The morning was one of the most unpleasant that can be conceived; there was an incessant down-pouring of rain, and, consequently, those who had arranged about their tickets, stayed quietly in their abodes—indeed, none were to be seen in the Hall of the Institution but those who had only just arrived. By a kind of tacit agreement, most of the members dined together at the Hopetown rooms. Not a little surprise was generally expressed when the papers of the morning announced, that Lord Brougham, instead of coming to the meeting, had taken a tour among some of the northern burghs, to eat corporation dinners, and have his ears tickled

with praise, a species of delight which he has not been recently accustomed to enjoy. He is, however, expected at the end of the week.

At five o'clock three hundred and fifty members sat down to dinner in the Hopetown rooms; Professor Sedgwick took the chair. Before the party separated, the Professor rose and proposed the health of the King. He then said, that though it had been agreed not to propose formal toasts, circumstances would probably justify in one instance a departure from strict rule; he alluded to the presence of M. Arago, the Astronomer Royal of France, whose appearance amongst us he hailed as a gratifying sign, that the times were gone past when Englishmen and Frenchmen regarded each other as natural enemies. The health of M. Arago was then proposed, and the toast was received with the utmost enthusiasm.

M. Arago rose to return thanks; he passed rapidly over the routine phrases, and dwelt at some length on the advantages that must result from the union of the minds of Europe; he regarded it as the pledge of the peace of the world, because intellectual supremacy daily acquires more direct power over the affairs of nations, and when the intellectual rulers are banded in friendship, the nations subject to their influence cannot be forced into hostility. These noble sentiments were delivered in a manner that can scarcely be described. M. Arago possesses great physical advantages: in figure he resembles the Farnese Hercules; his voice is, at the same time, powerful and melodious—his action rounded and graceful; his style reminded us very much of the late Mr. Canning's.

After dinner, the meeting was formally commenced in the Assembly Rooms, which its proprietors had fitted up with great taste, and placed at the disposal of the Association. There were present in the rooms about twelve hundred members, and four hundred ladies. The appearance was very striking; in one of the recesses a division of phrenologists had taken a good position for inspecting heads, and, sooth to say, they made tolerable guesses at the characters of all those with whom we were acquainted: the statisticians also, by some species of attraction which philosophers have not yet described, got together, and before business commenced speculated on the propriety of forming a table of the Association itself, and by determining the numbers attached to each particular branch of science, ascertaining the present tendency of intellectual exertion: rough calculations were immediately hazarded, and it was established with some certainty, that experimental science, with purely practical results, had greatly the majority over the speculative branches of knowledge. A little after eight o'clock, Professor Sedgwick, the chairman at the Cambridge meeting, came forward to resign his presidency to Sir T. Brisbane, and addressed the meeting to the following effect:—

The duty which he had that evening to perform was an humble one. The Association had exalted him to a high honour, from which he was then on the point of retiring, and he did so with feelings of exultation rather than regret, inasmuch as the trust he had held would devolve on one whom they all knew was more capable of performing the duties of it. He, however, would enter on the trust which was not in a bankrupt state, but was going on increasing in prosperity, and would produce an effect on the philosophic world, which would extend to ages yet unborn, and tend to promote the best interests of humanity. The learned Professor proceeded to expatiate on the advantages of an association of this nature. Distinguished men from various parts of the continent and of this kingdom, were congregated here who would mutually enjoy each other's conversation. This was one advantage of philosophic unions; but there were many other circumstances which pointed out the use of that



Association. What was man alone?—why in a savage state. He could not be said to have power even over brute matter; but, when associated with his fellow-creatures, he gained power as he gained knowledge. This was the great good which arose from association, for there was a power derived from concentration quite different from that which a man possessed when acting by himself. It was said the greatest philosophic discoveries had been achieved in private; but it would be found that the sparks which kindled them originated from their mingling with the world, and having intercourse with men of kindred spirits. After alluding to several of the topics embraced in the proceedings of former meetings, the learned Professor combated the objections which had been urged against such unions. These associations were said to be dangerous in their tendency, but he denied that the investigation of truth could ever be injurious to mankind—this was a libel on the God of nature, because it would merely establish and bring out that which was true, and instead of impugning any of the grander truths, rather corroborate them in the end. Before concluding, he made some complimentary remarks on the fame which this city had always enjoyed as a seat of learning and science; and in allusion to the monuments to Playfair and Dugald Stewart, said these were the monuments of peace—no shrieks, no wailings, no heart-breakings, and no blood—none of these were connected with those memorials. They were in a manner the physical representation of those feelings in which they participated. He strongly deprecated any infringement of the rules of the Association, for if it should ever break up he might predict that it would be by overstepping its laws, and entering on political topics, which were totally foreign to the institution. It was said that the words of a dying man were ominous—then let the words of a dying president—(laughter and applause)—be also ominous. He now begged to resign into the hands of one who had been placed at the head of science in this city—who had kindled up the light of science at the antipodes—(cheers), and who had fought the battles of his country; but they all knew him better than he did, and he therefore proposed that Sir Thomas Brisbane take the chair.—The learned Professor concluded his address, of which the above is but an imperfect outline, amidst much applause.

Sir THOMAS BRISBANE then took the chair, and shortly addressed the meeting. The luminous speech of the learned Professor, he observed, had left him little to say. He, therefore, congratulated the Association on its present state of prosperity, and hoped its advantages would extend to the remotest parts of the globe.

Mr. ROBINSON, one of the Secretaries, gave an account of the arrangements which had been made for the accommodation of the members, and the general order of the business of the week.

Professor FORBES afterwards gave an outline of the different subjects under discussion, mentioning the names of the individuals by whom reports in their respective departments were drawn up.

The President having announced the hours and places of meeting for the following day, the assembly separated.

The following are among the most distinguished of the members and foreign associates already enrolled, selected from the list of members, which has, we understand, received a large accession of numbers in Edinburgh:—

From the Continent—M. Arago, Astronomer Royal, from Paris, Professor Mole, (Utrecht,) Baron Ende, (Baden,) MM. Treviranus, Tiedemann, Jacobson, (Berlin,) Ulman, (Weimar,) Von Druffel, A. Vander Foom, M. le Marquis de St. Croix, Le General Dubourg, M. Année, Le Chevalier Jean Audiffredie, Le Chevalier Gregoire Berardi, (Rome,) Mons. Nelly, M.

de la Rive, (both of Geneva,) Dr. Vlastos, (Island of Chios).

From America—Dr. Mason Warren, of Boston, Dr. Hooper, Mr. Beriah Botfield.

From Ireland—Rev. Dr. Lloyd, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, Professor Hamilton, Rev. Dr. Robinson, Sir John Jeffcott, Professor H. Lloyd, Rev. Sidney Smith.

From England and Scotland—Sir Charles Bell, Mr. Charles Babington, (Cambridge,) Rev. T. Churton, Dr. C. Daubeny, Mr. C. Fellows, Rev. W. Garndus, G. B. Greenough, Dr. E. Grove, Professor Knight, Dr. Kelt, Rev. Dr. Lardner, R. I. Murchison, (late President of the London Geological Society,) Professor Phillips, Rev. Dr. Penny, Professor Roget, Professor Trevelyan, H. Woolcombe, (President of the Plymouth Institution,) Sir Alexander Wood, Henry Cockburn, the Solicitor General, Sir George Clerk, Professor Christison, M.D., Dr. Combe, Professor Chalmers, Lord Dalmeny, Lord Fullerton, Viscount Melville, Hon. Lord Jeffrey, Lord Advocate, Professor Macvey Napier, Professor Pillans, Lord Roseberry, &c. &c.

Tuesday.

The weather worse than ever, but the members notwithstanding assembled at ten o'clock in the library of the University, one of the most beautiful buildings in Europe, while the committees of the different Sections assembled to elect office bearers. Prof. Whewell, of Cambridge, and Dr. Lloyd, Provost of Trinity College, Dublin, were the chairmen of the Mathematical and Physical section; Dr. Abercrombie presided over Anatomy and Medicine; Geology and Geography were intrusted to Prof. Jamieson; Chemistry and Mineralogy, to Prof. Hope; Zoology and Botany, to Prof. Graham, and Statistics, a novel feature in the Association's proceedings, was placed under the superintendence of Sir C. Lemon and Col. Sykes. Though the business of Tuesday was in some degree preliminary, there were several valuable papers read. One especially, communicated to the Statistical section we may notice, because its results can be stated in small compass, and also because it is of a more independent character than those communicated to the other Sections. It was an account of 4102 families of operatives in Manchester, communicated by Mr. Heywood, of that town. The numbers in each family were on the average 5, a low average, because the common one is 6½; they resided in 3100 houses, 752 cellars, and 250 rooms; about 600 of these residences were respectable, and about 1200 ordinarily comfortable, but more than one-half were dirty and destitute. There were 8821 children under the age of twelve, of whom, only 252 attended day schools, 4680 received instruction at Sunday schools, and nearly one-half were entirely destitute of education. The number of parents who could read, amounted to 3114. Of these families, 2021 belonged to the established church, 1473 were Roman Catholics, 591 were dissenters, and 17 declared that they had no religion.

In the section of Natural History, a very admirable abstract of the progress made in Natural History during the present century, by the Rev. Mr. Jenyns, was commenced, and also an account of the Botany of South America, by Prof. Hooker, of which, when concluded, we shall give a more extended account. A very animated discussion on stratification, took place in the Geological section. The attention of the Medical division, was principally directed to the nervous system. In the Physical division, a paper on capillary attraction, read by Prof. Whewell, led to a very varied discussion, in which some notice was taken of the aerial character of comets; and Prof. Arago mentioned some *experimenta crucis*, by which he thought that the different theories of La Place and Poisson might be tested.

At the evening sitting, Mr. Taylor, the Treasurer, stated the increase in the numbers of the Association: 350 met at York, 700 at Oxford, 1400 at Cambridge, and 2,200 at Edinburgh. After the chairman of the sections had reported proceedings, Dr. Robinson read a letter from Professor Hunker, of Hamburg, which was accompanied by an ephemeris of the track of the comet of 1682 and 1759, whose return is expected at the end of this year. The Vice President, Professor Robinson, of Armagh, then gave an account of the progress of cometary knowledge. He then entered into an interesting disquisition on the history of the great Halley comet, which was calculated once more to appear in the latter end of the present year, although it would not make its nearest approach to the earth until the 6th of January, 1835. He concluded with a scientific analysis of the various theories on this abstruse subject.

Professor Whewell humorously followed, and spoke of comets as notorious for breaking their appointments; from which Professor Hamilton dissented, asserting that they were very regular visitors.

The meeting adjourned a little before eleven.

## THEATRICALS

### HAYMARKET THEATRE.

A new drama, in two acts, called 'The Queen's Champion,' was presented here for the first time on Wednesday. It is an English version, by Mrs. Charles Gore, of a French piece, entitled 'Salvoysie, ou l'Amant de la Reine.' It is founded on an incident, real or supposed, we know not which, (but supposed, as we suppose, in the life of the unfortunate Marie Antoinette. The plot is slight, but the piece has been carefully and neatly put upon our stage, and its success was decided.

### ENGLISH OPERA HOUSE.

On Tuesday evening, in the opera of 'The Mountain Sylph,' Mr. J. Bland for the second time went through the arduous task which at a short notice he undertook on Monday. We have long thought this gentleman the best actor among our singers, and his performance of *Helo* has but served to confirm our opinion. When he shall have had time to study the music thoroughly, and to fit himself as it were into it, he will prove the best substitute—take him for all in all—that could have been found for the original. Mr. H. Phillips ought to consider this as a most amiable trait in Mr. Bland, for he has doubtless learned, long ere this, how rare it is for any man to have a friend, ready in his absence to take his part and uphold his character.

After Mr. Barnett's delicious opera, we were presented for the first time with an entertainment (which really was one), said to be the production of Miss Isabel Hill, a lady already known as a writer in other branches of literature. The subject, which has been thoroughly detailed by our diurnal brethren, is slight, but amusing; and, with the curtailment which doubtless the piece has already received, we have no doubt of its receiving at the hands of the public the commendation it merits.

## MISCELLANEA

*Eltham Palace.*—Some interesting discoveries have lately been made here by Mr. King and Mr. Clayton, of Eltham. Tradition, it appears, has always kept up a belief of there being an underground passage to Blackheath, Greenwich, or the River, and that at Middle Park connected with these passages, there were one or more apartments underground for 60 horses.—Under the ground floor of some apartment of the palace, a trap-door, where recently a new arch has been partly formed, opens into a room under ground, 10 feet by 5 feet, and proceeding from

it, a narrow passage of about 10 feet in length, conducts the passenger to the series of passages, with decoys, stairs, and shafts, some of which are vertical, and others on an inclined plane, which were once used for admitting air, and for hurling down missiles, or pitch balls upon enemies, according to the mode of defence in those ancient times; and it is worthy of notice, that at points where weapons from above could assail the enemy with greatest effect, there these shafts verge and concentrate.—About 500 feet of passage have been entered, and passed through, in a direction west, towards Middle Park, and under the moat for 200 feet. The arch is broken into in the field leading from Eltham to Mottingham, but still the brick-work of the arch can be traced further, proceeding in the same direction. The remains of two iron gates completely carbonized were found in that part of the passage under the moat, and large stalactites, formed of super-carbonate of lime, hung down from the roof of the arch, which sufficiently indicate the lapse of time since these passages were entered.—In order to defray the expenses already incurred in clearing out and making secure the excavations, it is proposed to demand a small sum for admission to view the passages, and to receive subscriptions on the spot, from those persons inclined to aid in prosecuting research.

**Rome.**—[From a Correspondent.]—Great exertions are at present being made, with a view of restoring somewhat of her ancient splendour to the city of Rome. The interests of the fine arts, as well as of archaeology, are engaged in this undertaking. The great Basilica of S. Paolo is, it is said, to be restored by Luigi Poletti, while the excavations of Monte Catillo, at Tivoli, will be carried on under the direction of the Chevalier Clement Golchi. At the same time it is in contemplation to cut away a portion of Monte Pincio in order to render the approaches to Rome more pleasant. Four colossal statues from the chisels of Gnacheirini, Bainsi, Laboureur, and Stocchi are destined for the interior of the Basilica of S. Paolo, and one of equal size has been ordered by the Pope, from the Chevalier Fabris, for the purpose of being placed in the church of S. Francesco di Paolo. The same artist is also commissioned to restore the tomb of Tasso, and the mausoleum raised in honour of Pope Leo XII.—Tenerani, who lately finished the monument of the Marquess of Northampton, is engaged upon a statue of Alfonso Liguori, which is destined for the interior of the Basilica of the Vatican. Professor Rinaldini, who has just completed a Psyche and a Pucelle d'Orleans, which have won for him "golden opinions," is engaged on a monument in memory of the Count di Cini, to be placed in the church of Giesu Maria. The Chevalier Sola, the director of the Spanish Academy established at Rome, is at present engaged in casting a bronze bust of the immortal Cervantes—Silvagni is reviving the famous fresco in the church of San Gregorio—M. de Kessel has given the finishing touch to a colossal group representing an episode of the Deluge—and lastly, Signor Cornelius, the director of the Academy of Monaco, has completed an extensive series of cartoons of the Last Judgment. The whole of the above works will remain in Rome.

**Meteorology.**—A correspondent (Mr. W. R. Birt.) has addressed a letter to us on this subject, in which he states, that his experience confirms the observations of Dr. Forster, respecting the descending currents. We have not room for the whole letter, but the following are the more important passages:—

My object in troubling you with this communication, is to suggest a method by which I conceive an approximation to the breadth of the different currents of air may probably be obtained. From numerous observations, I find that, in the neighbourhood of the vauces, there are several currents blowing nearly at the same

time, especially in windy weather, which causes considerable vacillation in these instruments. In order to obtain the direction of the wind as accurately as possible, I reduce the whole of the observations of one day to a mean; for this purpose I generally take ten or twelve observations a day. Now I think that, if at several places simultaneous observations were made and reduced to a mean, we might probably determine if the same current blows over each of them. I think, however, that careful observation of the motion of the clouds may determine this point with much greater certainty, as observations of this kind indicate a more constant current than observations of the vauces. The mode of taking them which I adopt, is carefully to determine the position of a high wall, which being done, the angle that the clouds make with it in their passage over the zenith is determined with sufficient accuracy by the eye, the observer standing very near the wall, and looking directly upwards. Were such observations carefully recorded, and carefully compared, such observer not only registering the direction in which the clouds move, but the kind of cloud observed, I think some approximation to the breadth of the currents would be obtained, which must be of great importance in meteorology.

**Another Aerial Machine.**—In addition to the aerial conveyance, which has been so much talked of in Paris, from the idea, that a communication may be effected between that city and London in a few hours, another machine, from which still greater expectations are formed, is now exhibiting in the Chaussée d'Antin. It is a sort of terrestrial ship, having three masts. With this curious machine, the inventor, M. Harquet, is said to have travelled from Tours to Paris at the rate of about twenty miles an hour.

**For the Benefit of future Historians.**—The late Count Araklschejev, the founder of the Military Colonies, established in Russia since the year 1817, has in his will bequeathed a capital of 50,000 rubles *banco*, as a prize for the best, most complete, and most authentic History of the Emperor Alexander, to be written by a Russian, in the Russian language, at the expiration of one hundred years from the death of that sovereign. In 82 years the Academy of Sciences is to give public notice, that the time for adjudging the prize is approaching; it will of course arrive in 1925. The fortunate candidate is then to receive three fourths of the accumulated capital; one fourth will remain at the disposal of the Academy of Sciences, and is to be applied to the printing of ten thousand copies of the work, to be sold at a low price. The produce of the sale, is to be expended in the publication of translations of the same work. The capital, which is to be put out at interest at 4 per cent, will have increased in the year 1925, to 1,918,960 rubles; so that the lucky writer will receive 1,439,220 rubles *banco*, certainly the highest prize ever won by the author of any literary composition.

**Lafayette's Letters.**—Perhaps no individual came in contact with so many remarkable persons from all the countries of the world as Lafayette. With his extensive correspondence, he must have left a great number of letters, which were addressed to him during the revolutions, by persons of all ranks, and no doubt their publication would be attended with many strange disclosures. It appears, that the family has been apprehensive lest these letters should be wrested from them on some pretext or other: for it has frequently happened, that on the decease of influential statesmen, their papers and especially letters, have been arbitrarily seized, upon pretence that they belonged to the State. A considerable collection of letters, written by the different sovereigns of Europe to Napoleon, during the period of his highest power, were made away with in a different manner. Unluckily they got into private hands, and a speculator sold them to a foreign ambassador in London, who in his own name or that of his master, sent back to the potentates by whom the letters were written, those evidences of their former cringing submission, and thereby caused them a most agreeable surprise. Those important documents are now probably all destroyed, and lost to posterity. Though the documents left by Lafayette may not possess equal importance, they may

nevertheless serve to shame many individuals: but this is not the principal reason why their publication is desirable. They cannot but furnish information respecting the events of later times, and make us better acquainted with the character of many celebrated persons. It is probable, we understand, that they will soon appear, and as the press is free, and the family of the General independent, there is no cause to apprehend that any thing material will be suppressed.

**Music in Belgium.**—It is proposed, and we believe with the sanction of the government, that annual musical festivals shall in future be held alternately in the principal cities of Belgium.

**The Ravages of War.**—As illustrative of this subject, we find in *Le Sauveteur*, a Greek and French Journal published at Nauplia, (and for which we return thanks to a kind though unknown friend) the melancholy statement, that whereas the district of Argolis and Corinth contained more than 600,000 inhabitants, its population is now reduced to 89,130. The district of Nauplia, says the writer, contains one principal town, one market town, twenty-four villages, and 2,551 families; Corinthia—thirteen market towns, eighty-three villages, and 5,553 families; the province of Trézène—one principal town, one market town, nineteen villages, and twenty-one families; Hydra—one principal town, one hamlet, and 2,663 families; and lastly, the province of Hermione—two principal towns, two market towns, two villages, in all, 17,826 families; which, calculating each at five individuals, gives the above-mentioned number.

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#### TO CORRESPONDENTS.

A. M.—P. J. received.  
We have no doubt of the truth of every word written by 'A Friend to the Fine Arts,' but we must, in confidence and for our private satisfaction, have his name and address before we can avail ourselves of the information. We hope he will not refuse this, because we think that from his position he could often serve us in the same way.

We have received further suggestions as to the translation of *gorio fill*. J. G. N. sees no difficulty, because he finds *Gargophyllum* translated in Littleton's Lat. Dict. '*The Clove Gillyflower*;' but it is not very probable that a common English flower should bear a price equal to 15l. per lb. We have now little doubt that *cloves* are meant; and while on the subject, we will further request the reader to alter the passage thus: "6lb of cummin, and 4lb of cloves."

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## SOCIETY OF BRITISH MUSICIANS.

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The first Concert will be on Monday, Oct. 27.  
J. R. TUTTON, Hon. Sec.

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